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# PICTURE

OF THE CITY OF

# WASHINGTON

W. M. MORRISON.

MORRISON'S

# STRANGER'S GUIDE

TO THE

## CITY OF WASHINGTON

AND

ITS VICINITY.

Catholic University of America
RELEASED

ILLUSTRATED WITH EIGHTEEN STEEL, AND TWENTY WOOD, ENGRAVINGS; REVISED AND CORRECTED, WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY THE

REV. R. R. GURLEY.

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WASHINGTON,
WILLIAM M. MORRISON,
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# INTRODUCTION.

In the advantages of position, climate, productions, and scenery, the District of Columbia is perhaps unsurpassed. True, there may be in other countries, and even in this, regions where nature shows an aspect bolder and more grand; yet is there none of the same extent, in which, from so many points, she looks forth with features of such modest, tranquil, charming beauty. True, there is here no Alpine or ocean scenery, no cliffs, glens, or lakes, like those of Scotland; yet, from any position on the fine amphitheatre of hills thrown around Washington, including those on the Virginia side of the Potomac, what objects of rich and varied, of simple and picturesque loveliness, meet the eye! He who looks out from the Capitol, from the heights of Georgetown, or from Arlington, (the seat of Mr. Custis,) sees spread before him a view which must gain in the comparison with those famous ones from Windsor Castle or Richmond Hill in England, and to which, on the same scale, nothing superior, if equal, can be found in the compass of the Union. And where is the spot on earth more abounding than this District in all those good gifts of Providence, which

supply, not merely the necessities, but minister to the luxurious desires and refined taste of civilized man? Ships laden with the productions of every land may be borne on the bosom of a noble river to its wharves; from its forests, fields, and gardens, may be gathered provision for a feast such as a Roman emperor could not buy; flowers of every hue shed their fragrance on its genial air, and birds of sweetest song build their nests among its branches. The people of this District may adopt with truth the words of inspiration, and say, "the lines have fallen to us in pleasant places, and we have a goodly heritage."

But if the natural advantages of this District are great, the peculiarities of the social and political condition of its inhabitants are not undeserving of notice and regard. Selected for the seat of the Federal Government, and placed under its legislative control, while they enjoy not the political rights and independence of the States, they share more in the favor and protection and are more identified with the interests and prosperity of the nation. They are less disturbed and distracted by questions connected with State rights and local politics. The stormy agitations connected with lections spend much of their rage before they h these limits, or break out only in the halls, bside with the departure of Congress This

is to be understood not of those connected with the offices of Government, but of the citizens generally, who, enjoying the blessings of good government, are well satisfied with the immunities and honors of private life, leaving to others the anxieties, responsibilities, and direction of public affairs. Such persons find in this District a sheltered and quiet nook, where, indeed, they may hear the sound of the tempest, but fear not its power, and, while observing every now and then some gallant vessel dashed a wreck upon the shore, pursue their occupations with thankfulness, that they can look out upon the angry waves of the political ocean, and remain inaccessible to their wrath, and dread no treacherous elements of its evil fortune. They have all the intellectual advantages of the ablest political discussions, but are less exposed than citizens of the States to the evil effects of political excitement upon the passions of the heart.

Of the social condition of the inhabitants of this District, it may be remarked, that it has all the freshness of youth; that the population is gathered from every section of the country, and even from distant and different nations; that, while favored with many agricultural and commercial advantages, they are not particularly exposed to be seduced into wild speculations and dangerous excitements of the love of gain; that, while not impelled to make

haste to be rich, they may be certain that industry, frugality, and economy will find sure rewards; that, like the people of ancient Elis, in Greece, they dwell on a territory dedicated to the common good of all the tribes of the Republic, and to which they annually come up, not in arms, or to the trial of their physical strength, but to the contest of mind with mind, in skillful argument and eloquent debate, on subjects of high and solemn bearing on the welfare of the State, and finally, that an almost constant and extensive intercourse with their fellow citizens from all sections of the Union, and strangers from foreign lands, will prove for good or evil, as they are trained and disciplined to render such intercourse and the knowledge derived from it, the aliment of virtue or the means and aids to vice.

The cultivation of a taste for science and letters is of the highest importance to the people of this District, and by this will they most effectually adorn, and elevate their character, and advance their highest interests. It is not strange that many have ascribed the origin of written language to God, since it is difficult to imagine that unaided human reason could have devised so wonderful an instrument for the communication of thought and the increase of knowledge. Things most admirable, being common, cease to be admired. The alleged facts of mesmerism are not, perhaps, more wonderful, than letters and their use must appear to a barba-

rian. How surprised was the poor Indian who, when sent by his civilized neighbor with a letter and present to a friend, was told that if he took anything from the basket, the letter would inform of his theft, and therefore while violating his trust, hid it under a stone that it might not see him, to find his dishonesty instantly detected! Could there be thrown wide open at once to this untaught savage, the gates to that exhaustless and unbounded universe of knowledge to which letters give access: could he behold the events of past ages, the contests, achievements, the words, and even the very thoughts of a hundred generations, embalmed and treasured up in history: could he be ushered into the presence chamber of Shakespeare's genius, garnished with poetic majesty and beauty, hung round with the gorgeous tapestry of kingly halls, and all emblems and pictures of comic life or tragic sorrow; or into that statelier and purer temple where Milton worshiped, singing high anthems as at heaven's doors to God's omnipotence; or, turning from these regions where taste and fancy linger, catch but a glimpse of that kingdom of philosophy where Bacon stood pre-eminent, the high priest and interpreter of nature, because willing to follow her methods, and listen to her voice, unlock her various departments where are named and classified, examined, and registered, all the countless forms of the animal, vegetable, and mineral crea-

tion: could he gaze upon star-eyed science, as she marshals her bright host, keeping watch over our shadows, changes, and decay, expressing silently the glory, and, by swift obedience, and constant and mighty evolutions, declaring themselves the sentinels and the messengers of the Father of Eternity: could he lift the veil from the mind, discover its powers, laws, passions, the force of reason, the depth and tenderness of the affections, the vigor and grasp of the imagination, the energy of the will, and the supremacy of conscience, and how to one and all belongs the grandeur of immortality: would he not fall down before the Great Spirit of the universe, and deem himself enriched and surrounded by the special gifts and revelations of His wisdom? How wide the gulf which separates those who have, from those who have not, the knowledge and use of letters! And who that is not indifferent to his own happiness will fail to enrich and adorn his mind with choice thoughts and the precepts of the highest philosophy, that, in solitude or adversity, he may find himself in possession of treasures of which no earthly power can deprive him, and which he can freely impart to others, without diminution, and without loss! Yet the observation of Fuseli, as quoted by Professor Henry, should be remembered: "That no great genuine work of art was ever produced where the artist did not love his art for its own sake; and the

remark applies to every branch of science and letters. All the master works of the mind must be the genial production of those who find their labors their own exceeding great reward. True love alone quickens creative energy. He who can be drawn to labor in the cause of truth, and letters, only by the earthly rewards of money and honor, will never do anything worthy of reward."

There is a sense of personal honor and dignity connected with knowledge and intellectual power, which belongs to no mere distinction of rank and fortune. This is true both of individuals and communities. In what catalogue of nobles or of kings are names to compare with those of Homer, Aristotle, Plato, Bacon, Locke, Shakespeare, Milton, Butler, Newton, Edwards, who have contributed to exalt the human understanding, thrown new light upon abstruse subjects of human inquiry, and enlarged the empire of wisdom? Who, asks an eloquent author, "would not prefer to have been a citizen of the small republic of Geneva, than to have wandered a prince on the territories of the Czar, or reign the master of a desolated continent."

If, which is doubtful, any other portions of this country may boast of natural advantages superior to those of the District of Columbia, surely the people of none have greater inducements and opportunities for the cultivation of literature and

science, of manners and the heart. The absence of the strongest stimulants to commercial cupidity and political ambition leave them especially open to the gentler and more refining influences connected with the study of nature, of books, and themselves. As they have less chance of distinction in some other pursuits, they have a fairer prospect and stronger motives to seek it by intellectual culture, the acquisition of knowledge, the improvement of the arts, and the exhibition of the best manners and the most humane and generous affections. Their territory is not too large for the highest cultivation in every part. Be it then the garden spot of the republic, more attractive than the ancient groves of the academy, where not our countrymen only, but foreigners, may refresh themselves by purer than Castalian streams, and find philosophy, while discoursing eloquently on the works, not irreverent, unbaptised, and without awe of the providence and word of God.

Thus, by winning distinction for their literary, scientific, and moral character, will the inhabitants of this District most effectually advance all their secular and subordinate interests. The central position it occupies in the political system, and the establishment within its limits, of the seat of the General Government, the annual assemblage of Congress, and of such citizens of the States as may find cause to attend upon its proceedings, renders

this District, for a residence, a place of many attractions. If it become a home for genius, taste, and art, be greatly distinguished for the love of letters, for scientific investigation and discovery; if it become famous for its schools and colleges, combining in their methods of instruction and discipline whatever the wisdom of antiquity can supply to the study and experience of modern times, thousands will make it their abode, assured that while they bring their sons and daughters to secure the benefit of the best education, they place them also where example will add force to precept, where what is begun in the schools will be cherished and perfected by the ever present influence of general society. To this District let the eyes of our countrymen be once turned as were the eyes of all Greece towards Athens, and it will do more for its pecuniary and every other valuable interest than a donation of millions from the national treasury.

And since the influence of this District must be for good or evil to the whole nation, its citizens owe it to their country to seek nothing short of the highest attainments possible in literature, science, and a sound Christian influence. Ignorance and vice at the heart will send a pernicious influence to the extremities of the political body; while every pulsation there of intellectual energy and virtuous sentiments will infuse health and gladness through the entire system. Vast are the responsibilities of

the people of this District. Not for themselves alone *do* they act nor *should* they labor, but that from the Capital of the Union a high-toned intelligence and manly virtue may be sent forth to pervade and bless the population of the land, so that, if this District be least in the measure of its territory and in its political rights, it may be greatest in the distinctions of the intellect and the moral dignity of its example. In pecuniary resources and political power it cannot hope to rival any one of the States, but the loftiest among them it may equal, if not excel in virtue and beneficence; and, while wisdom is better than strength or than weapons of war, while the words of the wise are heard in quiet more than the cry of him who ruleth among fools, if true to themselves and their country its people may kindle a light around the Capital which shall confound the pretensions of vanity, and expose the disguises of guilt, and exert a moral influence upon the nation to its utmost limit and for all time. Nor can language express the dishonor which would be theirs, should they ever permit darkness to settle upon the high place to which the tribes of our Israel come up, to mingle their congratulations, renew their patriotic vows, invigorate their intellect, strengthen their union, and, by their high example, call the world to liberty.

The people of this District have everything to encourage their hopes, and incite them to the

most decided and confident efforts in the cause of letters, of art, and of science. The system of common school education, so well commenced, the many private and public seminaries of great excellence rising into life, the establishment of colleges of high promise, the National Observatory, National Institute, and Smithsonian Institution, opening a wide and cheering prospect of scientific discoveries to future generations, these are signs and assurances that this District is yet to become worthy of the distinction it enjoys, and for itself to win a renown more exalted than it is possible for circumstances or any Government to confer.

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There is manifestly abroad among the citizens of Washington and the District, a spirit of improvement, and the recent policy of the city authorities is such as promises large and permanent benefits to the community. Public attention begins to be turned earnestly to architecture, an art embodying more perfectly than any other, beauty and grandeur, the cultivation of which is adapted to refine the taste, exalt the imagination, and chasten and ennoble the moral sentiments.

Manners, it has been justly said, are more important than laws. Of these a sound morality is the basis, and the only adequate sanction of this is derived from the revealed will of God. The cultivation of letters and science disciplines the higher faculties, diminishes the power of the senses and

the force of the temptations which threaten virtue, gives pleasure, which there will be no cause to regret, and means of usefulness which it is our duty to employ. But the highest genius and largest acquirements do not of necessity soften and refine the manners, or purify the heart. Without the spirit of a Divine Philosophy, the finest parts, most brilliant wit, and ample knowledge, are but the adornings of a sepulchre, and profit nothing.

Faithful to their high trust, the present inhabitants of this District may anticipate the time (let it be not far distant) when the great and good Father of his Country, turning his benignant eye to this territory of his choice, shall behold it rich in agricultural resources and improvements, adorned by industry, by art, and all architectural beauty; its hills covered by stately edifices, its valleys smiling with cultivated gardens and the best products of the soil, its churches solemn, well proportioned, and grand in aspect; its schools and colleges all that the wisest friends of education could desire; and, towering above all, a National University worthy of the name of WASHINGTON, who proposed it, and of the nation that shall endow it and participate through all ages in its inestimable blessings.

# WASHINGTON.

Washington City, the seat of Government of the United States, is within the District of Columbia, a Territory which, as ceded by Maryland and Virginia to the Government, was ten miles square, the diagonal lines running north and south and east and west, and which, as selected by General Washington, included the cities of Washington, Georgetown, and Alexandria. That part which was ceded by Virginia, being all that portion of the District which lay south of the Potomac, including the city of Alexandria, has recently, by act of Congress, been restored to Virginia. Washington is admirably situated for a magnificent city, on the left bank of the Potomac, and the right of the Anacostia or Eastern Branch, and was laid out by General Washington on a plan commensurate with his enlarged mind.

This city is nearly surrounded by a fine amphitheatre of hills, of moderate elevation, covered with trees and shrubbery, commanding from many points picturesque scenery and extensive views of the Potomac or river of Swans, which, descending from the Alleghany mountains, and winding its way for nearly four hundred miles, through a fertile and most attractive country, expands into

the Chesapeake bay, and finally, through its ample waters, mingles itself with the ocean. The environs of the city abound in the most eligible sites for villas and country seats for individuals of wealth and taste, and such will doubtless be multiplied as the great advantages of Washington for health, education and agreeable and refined society, become evident and more extensively known.

The first recorded communication in regard to the laying out of the city is from the pen of Gen. Washington, dated March 11, 1791; and in a letter dated April 30, 1791, he calls it the Federal City. About four months later, the name which it now bears, *City of Washington*, was adopted by the Commissioners appointed to lay it out, probably without the knowledge of General Washington. The original proprietors of the land, Daniel Carrol, Notley Young, David Burns, and Samuel Davidson, in consideration of the great benefits which they expected to derive from the location of the seat of Government, conveyed in trust to the Commissioners, for the use of the public and for the purpose of establishing the city, the whole of their respective lands which were included within the lines of the city, upon condition that, after retaining for the public the ground of the streets, and any number of squares that the President might think proper for public improvements or other public uses, the lots should be equally divided

between the public and the respective proprietors. By this means the public obtained possession of more than ten thousand lots; from which, in addition to a donation of one hundred and ninety-two thousand dollars from Virginia and Maryland, funds were to be raised to defray the expenses of the public buildings, and other necessary objects.

A French engineer, Major L'Enfant, was employed in 1791 to furnish a plan and lay out the city; but owing to some difference between him and the Commissioners, he was soon dismissed, and Mr. Ellicot, in 1792, was appointed.

A plan for the capitol presented by Dr. William Thornton was approved by President Washington on the 2d of April, 1792, but it was subsequently modified by Mr. G. Hallet. On the 18th of September, 1793, the corner stone of the north wing of the capitol was laid with masonic honors, when General Washington delivered an appropriate and impressive speech. The city was first occupied as the seat of the Federal Government in 1800.

The extent of the city is from northwest to southeast about four and a half miles, and from east to southwest about two miles and a half. The whole area of the city is three thousand and sixteen acres, and its circumference is fourteen miles. The positions for the public edifices are generally eligible and convenient. The streets of the city run north and south, and east and west. These streets

are crossed diagonally by spacious avenues, which bear the names of the different States as far as they reach, and are from one hundred and thirty to one hundred and sixty feet in width. The other streets vary in width from seventy to a hundred feet, and are named numerically as they run from north to south, and alphabetically when from east to west. Some of the avenues are planted with trees, and many open spaces and squares are preserved, and, with the very large reservation extending from the capitol to the river, will afford ample space for walks, and when properly laid out, cultivated and adorned, will contribute essentially to the pleasures as well as health of the citizens.

It is a historical fact, that even as far back as 1663, more than a century before the Revolutionary war, the site of the city of Washington was laid out, and called *Rome*. A gentleman by the name of *Pope* was the proprietor of the soil, and the *Tiber* ran through his tract. The stream still flows at the foot of the *Capitoline Hill*, and has its ancient name of fame. Here, also, even when these names were not remarkable among the people of those days, and when they were not looked upon as prophetic, the Indians of many tribes congregated and deliberated in council. Here they regulated their wild government, made treaties, and declared war. The legend is true, and General Washington, it is supposed, was aware of the fact

How singularly, then, has this location become the seat of a great empire. There is a romance around every, even the most common incidents of life; and here we find it. Here, where the name of Rome, the mighty mistress of a world dead but unforgotten, was a familiar word—where even the common tillers of the soil recognized its sound, and applied it to the mighty forest lands that then were here, when in going and returning to their daily work they crossed the Tiber—how strangely has it happened that here, an empire greater than the mother of empires herself, has been established—that on the land called Rome a capitol is built, a senate house and a forum—that here a bridge spans the Tiber—that here is the mansion of a Chief Magistrate, and all the forms and more than the shadow of a vast republic.

Every one will peruse with interest the following sketch of Washington as it was in 1800, from the pen of the late Hon. John Cotton Smith, then a member of Congress from Connecticut:

"Our approach to the city was accompanied with sensations not easily described. One wing of the Capitol only had been erected, which, with the President's house, a mile distant from it, both constructed with white sandstone, were shining objects in dismal contrast with the scene around them. Instead of recognising the avenues and streets portrayed on the plan of the city, not one was visible,

unless we except a road with two buildings on each side of it, called the New Jersey avenue. The Pennsylvania, leading, as laid down on paper, from the capitol to the Presidential mansion, was then nearly the whole distance a deep morass, covered with alder bushes, which were cut through the width of the intended avenue during the then ensuing winter. Between the President's house and Georgetown a block of houses had been erected, which then bore, and may still bear, the name of the Six Buildings. There were also two other blocks, consisting of two or three dwelling houses, in different directions, and now and then an insulated wooden habitation; the intervening spaces, and, indeed, the surface of the city generally, being covered with shrub-oak bushes on the higher grounds, and on the marshy soil either trees or some sort of shrubbery. Nor was the desolate aspect of the place a little augmented by a number of unfinished edifices at Greenleaf's Point, and on an eminence a short distance from it, commenced by an individual whose name they bore, but the state of whose funds compelled him to abandon them, not only unfinished, but in a ruinous condition. There appeared to be but two really comfortable habitations in all respects within the bounds of the city, one of which belonged to Dudley Carroll, Esq., and the other to Notley Young, who were the former proprietors of a large proportion

of the land appropriated to the city, but who reserved for their own accommodation ground sufficient for gardens and other useful appurtenances. The roads in every direction were muddy and unimproved. A sidewalk was attempted in one instance by a covering formed of the chips of the stones which had been hewed for the capitol. It extended but a little way, and was of little value; for in dry weather the sharp fragments cut our shoes and in wet weather covered them with white mortar. In short, it was a 'new settlement.' The houses, with two or three exceptions, had been very recently erected, and the operation greatly hurried in view of the approaching transfer of the National Government. A laudable desire was manifested by what few citizens and residents there were, to render our condition as pleasant as circumstances would permit. One of the blocks of buildings already mentioned was situated on the east side of what was intended for the capitol square, and, being chiefly occupied by an extensive and well-kept hotel, accommodated a goodly number of the members. Notwithstanding the unfavorable aspect which Washington presented on our arrival, I cannot sufficiently express my admiration of its local position. From the capitol you have a distinct view of its fine undulating surface, situated at the confluence of the Potomac and its eastern branch, the wide expanse of that ma-

jestic river to the bend at Mount Vernon, the cities of Alexandria and Georgetown, and the cultivated fields and blue hills of Maryland and Virginia on either side of the river, the whole constituting a prospect of surpassing beauty and grandeur. The city has also the inestimable advantage of delightful water, in many instances flowing from copious springs, and always attainable by digging to a moderate depth; to which may be added the singular fact that such is the due admixture of loam and clay in the soil of a great portion of the city that a house may be built of brick made of the earth dug from the cellar; hence it was not unusual to see the remains of a brick-kiln near the newly erected dwelling house or other edifice. In short, when we consider not only these advantages, but what, in a national point of view, is of superior importance, the location on a fine navigable river, accessible to the whole maritime frontier of the United States, and yet easily rendered defensible against foreign invasion; and that, by the facilities of internal navigation and railways, it may be approached by the population of the Western States, and indeed of the whole nation, with less inconvenience than any other conceivable situation, we must acknowledge that its selection by WASHINGTON as the permanent seat of the Federal Government affords a striking exhibition of the discernment, wisdom

and forecast which characterized that illustrious man. Under this impression, whenever, during the six years of my connexion with Congress, the question of removing the seat of Government to some other place was agitated—and the proposition was frequently made—I stood almost alone as a northern man in giving my vote in the negative."

The laws of Maryland and Virginia passed prior to 1802, very generally prevail in the jurisprudence of the District.

The soil of Washington and its vicinity is not remarkably fertile, except along the margin of the streams, but it is very capable of improvement, and the mildness of the climate favors a great variety of products. In addition to the great staple productions of wheat, Indian corn, tobacco, and potatoes, both Irish and sweet, almost every variety of vegetables and fruits, not excepting the vine, may be cultivated to perfection. With these, few if any markets in the land, are more richly supplied than that of Washington. The climate of Washington, though sometimes sudden in its changes, is not surpassed in regard to salubrity by any in the Union, if in the world.

Those who would duly estimate the beauty and magnificence of the *Potomac River*, must ascend it, particularly from Georgetown to above Harper's Ferry, where takes place the junction of the Shenandoah with the main branch, rending asunder the

Blue Ridge, and leaving on either side the broken and shattered rocks of immense height, as monuments of the force that has separated them.

The waters of this noble river are frequented, particularly in the vicinity of Washington, by a great variety of the finest *wild fowl*, among which is the canvass-back duck, which feeds upon the *Vallisneria Americana*, found abundant in the swamps bordering the Potomac. This fowl is justly considered the greatest luxury which can be placed upon our tables. Wilson represents it in the rich, juicy tenderness of its flesh, and its delicacy of flavor, as unrivalled by the whole of its tribe, and those of the Chesapeake and Potomac as superior to all others, owing to the abundance of their favorite food produced in those rivers. The favorite region for the canvass-back is between Crany Island, some twenty-five miles below Washington, and Analostan Island near Georgetown. The numbers have somewhat decreased of late in the neighborhood of Washington, owing, doubtless, to the number of sharp shooters, who, in the winter and spring, are constantly in pursuit of them. Formerly, these ducks were only shot from the shore; but of late years large numbers have been killed by persons who approach them in small skiffs, with long guns of large calibre, and who kill great numbers by a single discharge. Among other varieties of water fowl may also be mentioned

the swan, the wild goose, the red-head shoveler, the black-head shoveler, the duck and mallard, the black duck, the blue wing teal, and the widgeon. The swan frequents a section of the river about thirty miles below Washington. In the lower portions of the river wild geese are abundant. There is also found in the marshes along the Potomac a bird less than the snipe, called in Virginia the sora, and in Pennsylvania the rail, and sometimes, though improperly, in the middle States, ortolan. It is seen but for a few weeks, arriving early in September, and departing in October. Its natural history is obscure, but it is much sought for by sportsmen and constitutes a great delicacy.

The shad and herring *fisheries* on the Potomac are sources of wealth to their owners, and of great public benefit. Rock fish are excellent and abundant, oysters plenty and of the finest quality, and, to the taste of many, the sturgeon is worthy a place on the choicest table.

Among the numerous *Halls* designed and adapted for public meetings, are Odd Fellows' Hall, on seventh street, between the General Post Office and Pennsylvania avenue ; Jackson Hall, on Penn. av., between 3d and 4½ streets ; Temperance Hall, on E st., bet. 9th and 10th ; Carusi's Saloon, on the corner of C and 11th sts.; Washington Hall, on Pennsylvania avenue, corner of 6th street ; and the Washington Assembly Rooms on Louisiana ave-

nue, near the City Hall; all of which are spacious and convenient edifices.

The *City Hall*, after a handsome plan by George Hadfield, was commenced in 1820. Commanding a fine view in front, to the south, at the head of 4½ street, on Louisiana avenue, this Hall has through the liberal appropriation of $30,000 by Congress the last year, risen from its miserable half-formed condition into architectural beauty, and the southern front, with the wings, is now complete, and when in all parts it shall be finished it cannot fail to be regarded as worthy of the metropolis of the Union. The circuit and criminal courts hold their sessions in this hall. In the eastern wing are the rooms of attorneys and the different officers connected with the court. In the western wing are the offices of the mayor and corporation. A beautiful model of what this hall is to be when finished, adorned by porticoes, pillars, and piazzas, is deposited in the western wing, and the design is that the whole edifice shall be stuccoed so as to resemble marble. The proposed length of the front is two hundred feet.

The *City Post Office* is in a convenient building on seventh street adjoining the General Post Office. It is open daily, from eight A. M. to nine P. M., except when assorting the mail, and on Sunday, when it is open from eight to nine A. M., from twelve to one, and from eight to nine P. M.

The *Washington Asylum* for the destitute is a large and convenient brick building, situated near the Congressional burying ground, and surrounded by an ample garden cultivated by such of the inmates as are able to labor. It is under the management of a Board of Commissioners. An intendant, matron, and other necessary agents are appointed by the Mayor and Board of Commissioners, who have adopted judicious regulations for the conduct of the Institution. One hundred and ninety-six destitute and infirm persons were relieved in the asylum during the year ending June 30, 1847.

A *City Infirmary*, in the rear of the City Hall, has recently been opened. Congress has made an annual appropriation of two thousand dollars for the support of unfortunate strangers who in sickness may desire to find a refuge within its walls. Several young gentlemen of the Medical School are constantly in attendance—while the inmates enjoy daily the visits and counsels of the ablest physicians.

The *Jail* of this city is a large brick building of Gothic form, three stories high, colored to resemble stone, and is well adapted to its purpose. It is situated a little to the north of the City Hall. And both this and the City Infirmary are on Reservation nine.

The *Orphan Asylum* was erected nearly twenty years ago, on what is called Mausoleum square,

and was largely indebted for its existence to the generosity of the late admirable and truly christian lady, Mrs. Van Ness. A society of benevolent ladies was formed in 1815 for the purpose of giving protection and aid to orphans, and Mrs. Madison was appointed first directress. Mrs. Van Ness became her successor, and for several years devoted herself, with remarkable zeal and liberality, to the interests of those sheltered beneath the wings of this society. The association was incorporated by act of Congress in 1828. On the same square with the asylum stands an imposing mausoleum erected by General John P. Van Ness, in which are interred the remains of David Burns' family, and since, those of the family of General Van Ness, including those of his lamented daughter, Mrs. Middleton, and his accomplished lady. This mausoleum is said to be a copy of the temple of Vesta at Rome.

The *St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum*, at the intersection of G and 10th streets has been rebuilt on a noble scale, and is liberally sustained by the Roman Catholics. It is one among many of the striking evidences of the zeal and resolution with which the members of this communion devote themselves to what they regard as works of charity and piety.

The *Market Houses* are four in number. The Centre Market, on Pennsylvania avenue, is proba-

bly not excelled in the abundance and quality of its supplies by any in the Union.

*Hotels and Boarding Houses* in Washington are numerous and excellent: Among them may be mentioned GADSBY'S, at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Third street. BROWN'S, with a marble front; the NATIONAL, (Calvert's,) Pennsylvania Avenue and Sixth street; the UNITED STATES, (Willard's,) at the intersection of 14th street and Pennsylvania Avenue; the IRVING HOUSE, (Thomas',) Pennsylvania Avenue and Twelfth street; DORSEY'S, on Seventh street; the EXCHANGE, on C street; and BEER'S TEMPERANCE HOTEL, on Third street. The number of respectable boarding houses is large. Owing to the great number of strangers who visit Washington during the session of Congress, the demand for accommodations is great, and new and well directed efforts are annually made to supply it. Those who are best competent to judge on the subject, are of opinion that the number of hotels at present is rather deficient than excessive, and it is probable that each successive year will witness a large augmentation in the number who may resort to Washington for purposes of business, improvement, or pleasure.

*Public Schools.*—Great efforts have been made recently to increase the number, and improve the character of the public schools. The public schools of Washington, are now conducted essentially on

the same principles, as those in the larger towns of Massachusetts. They are divided into primary and district schools, with a high school, to go into operation during the present year. The primary schools are fifteen, taught by seventeen females and three males, and the district schools, four, taught by four male principal teachers, and three female, and two male assistants—in all twenty-nine teachers, to each of whom is assigned seventy pupils. In a portion of the primary schools, females are only received; in others males; and in the remainder, males and females. Wherever the sexes are separated in these schools, teachers and parents have found increased satisfaction. The expense of these public schools is about $12,000, of which $3,000 is derived from the interest of the school fund, about $5,000 from the capitation tax, and the remainder from the general fund of the city. The following general summary is taken from the late Report of the Board of Trustees:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Number of | District Schools | 4 |
| Do. | Primary Schools | 15 |
| Do. | Male Principals of District Schools | 4 |
| Do. | Male Assistants in District Schools | 2 |
| Do. | Female Assistants in District Schools | 3 |
| Do. | Male Teachers of Primary Schools | 3 |
| Do. | Female Teachers of Primary Schools | 12 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Number of | Female Assistants in Primary Schools | 5 |
| Do. | Pupils at the commencement of the school year | 1,456 |
| Do. | Pupils at the end of the school year | 1,889 |
| Whole number admitted through the year | | 2,611 |
| Average attendance | | 1,397 |
| Number of | schools or apartments in which boys only are received | 6 |
| Do. | schools or apartments in which girls only are received | 4 |
| Do. | schools or apartments in which boys and girls are received | 12 |
| Do. | months taught by the teachers in all the schools last year | 292 |
| Do. | months lost by absence of pupils (being nearly one-eighth of the school time, and two schools not being reported.) | 37 |

Many *Schools and Seminaries* for the education of both sexes exist in different parts of the city, several of them of a high and well established character, where instruction in all the usual branches of knowledge can be obtained for a reasonable compensation. Among these should be mentioned, for young ladies, the schools of the Rev. Mr. Noble on Thirteenth street—the Rev. Mr. Cushman's, on Louisiana Avenue, near the City Hall—the Rev

Mr. Clark's, corner of Ninth and E streets—the Misses Tyson's, on F street—the Catholic Institution, on the same—and for boys, the Rev. James Nourse's Central Academy, corner of Tenth and E streets—Mr. Morrison's seminary, near Franklin Row—Philip's Academy on C street—the academy of Mr. Wight, Indiana Avenue—and the school in connexion with the church of the Roman Catholics, on F street. Public attention is strongly directed to these institutions, and perhaps in no other city are there to be found superior advantages of education, which are annually on the increase. There are also several excellent boarding schools.

The *Washington Library* is owned by an association of citizens, and was incorporated by Congress in 1814. The number of volumes belonging to this library is above six thousand, and many of the works are valuable, and embrace a great variety in the departments of letters and science. Shareholders are entitled to take books from this library under certain restrictions; and a Board of Directors, who elect annually a president, treasurer, and librarian, manage the affairs of the Institution. This library is open daily from three to six P. M. in a building owned by the company on eleventh street west, a few doors south of Pennsylvania Avenue.

The library of *Peter Force*, Esq., is one of the most rare and valuable in the United States. This

gentleman has greatly distinguished himself in his researches and labors to compile the Documentary History of the United States, and has spared no pains nor expense to collect all works, as well as all curious manuscripts which may serve to illustrate the times and characters which such a history should represent. This library of Mr. Force extends to some 25,000 or 30,000 volumes, and is probably the most rich in materials for American history and biography of any in the world.

Mr. Charles King's *Gallery of Paintings*, on Twelfth street, near F, will be found in a neat edifice erected for it by the excellent artist, its proprietor, and is highly attractive, embracing in two apartments more than two hundred and sixty paintings, among them portraits of distinguished persons, and a number of them works of great merit. Mr. King has exhibited much taste in the arrangement of his paintings, and many of them the productions of his own pencil, are admirably executed.

Mr. *Gibson* has been much distinguished by one or two panoramas, and some paintings of high excellence. Mr. *William M'Leod*, a young landscape painter, who has risen by the force of his genius to distinction, since the last edition of this work, has removed to New York. Mr. *J. Wilson*, who cut very beautiful cameos, and has recently shown extraordinary talent for sculpture, is about to embark for Italy to pursue his studies in his chosen

arts. He is a young artist of the highest promise. *Capt. Eastman* has produced many pictures, particularly of western scenery and Indian life, of great merit, and from them are derived many of the illustrations that adorn the great work of Henry Schoolcraft on Indian history, character and manners. Mr. *Arthur Stansbury* takes sketches of persons and scenery with great accuracy and spirit. Mr. *William J. Stone* has shown great ability in sculpture and intends to devote his life to the art. Various accomplished artists generally visit and reside in the city during the winter season.

Mr. *Chauncey Warriner* is the inventor of the self-acting meteorological register, which includes in one and the same instrument a chronometer, rain gauge, tide measurer, thermometer, barometer, and a contrivance to measure and mark the velocity of the wind. This machine registers its own operations and is very ingenious. Mr. Warriner is at present occupied in making improvements in the machines for the telegraph company, and has shown remarkable mechanical powers.

Mr. *Frederick Russell*, a citizen of Washington, has devoted much time and thought to the construction of an instrument designed to illustrate the various motions of the heavenly bodies. He has given to this instrument the name of the Uranoscope, and the following description of its movements and uses has been published :

"The Uranascope is in the form of a sphere, of more than five feet in diameter, composed of metal rods or bars, so arranged as to represent all the meridians, parallels of latitude, and primary circles usually marked on artificial globes. If the room in which the instrument is shown have a vaulted ceiling, and all other light be excluded from it, except that which comes from a lamp fixed in the centre of the globe, the exhibition of the various planetary phenomena will be beautifully distinct and perfect. The meridians and circles will make defined shadows on the face of the vault, while the sun, moon, stars, and planets of various magnitudes will, on the contrary, cast upon it their radiant reflection. A transparent covering, upon which are painted several hundred stars and the figures of the constellations, may be thrown over the globe at pleasure, and thus the vaulted ceiling becomes at once a perfect representation of the celestial hemisphere. By means of the machinery, its natural motion is given to the earth, and all the phenomena of the rising and setting of the heavenly bodies are brought before the beholder. Every object is seen in its appropriate place; and by changing the machinery, which consists of many varieties, to be substituted at pleasure, a better illustration than it is possible to give in words, is shown of the *precession of the equinoxes*, the equation of time, the eccentricities of the comet, and many

other phenomena which no other instrument could adequately explain. Besides the phenomena already mentioned, it may be used to illustrate the aspect of the heavens as seen from the earth in every latitude; the apparent annual course of the sun through the signs of the zodiac; the moon through her monthly course; her retrogade motion of nodes, and what are called harvest moons; eclipses in all their varieties; acceleration of the stars; comets in every form of ellipse; the revolution of the double stars; and, indeed, a very full and accurate view of the various changes in the heavens." It is hoped that the Smithsonian Institution or some seminary of science may enable Mr. Russel to construct his instrument on an ample scale, and show all its advantages.

POPULATION OF WASHINGTON,
*According to the Census of* 1850.

| | |
|---|---|
| Whites | 29,815 |
| Free Colored | 8,073 |
| Slaves | 2,113 |
| Total | 40,001 |

CHURCHES.

BAPTIST.

*First*—Rev. S. P. Hill, 10th street west, between E and F north.

*Second*—Rev. ——— ———, corner of 4½ street east and Virginia avenue.

*E Street*—Rev. ——— ———, E street north, between 6th and 7th west.

*Shiloh*—Rev. ——— ———, Virginia avenue, betwee $4\frac{1}{2}$ and 6th streets west, near Navy Yard.

CATHOLIC.

*St. Mathew's*—Rev. James B. Donelan, H street north, between 14th and 15th west.

*St. Patrick's*—Very Rev. Wm. Mathews, and M. Slattery, assistant, F street north, between 9th and 10th west.

*St. Peter's*—Rev. Mr. Lanahan, 2d street east, between C and D south.

*St. Mary's*—Rev. Mr. Alig, 5th street west, between G and H.

EPISCOPAL.

*Christ*—Rev. W. Hodges, G. street south, between 6th and 7th east.

*Church of the Ascension*—Rev. Levin Gillis, H street north, between 9th and 10th west.

*Church of the Epiphany*—Rev. John W. French, G street north, between 13th and 14th west.

*St. John's*—Rev. Smith Pine, corner of 16th street west, and H street north.

*Trinity*—Rev. C. M. Butler, D. D., corner of 3d street west and C street north.

FRIENDS.

I street, north side, between 18th and 19th streets.

LUTHERAN.

*English*—Rev. Mr. Butler, corner of 11th street west, and H street north.

*German*—Rev. Mr. Finckle, G street north, between 19th and 20th street west.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL.

*Ebenezer*—Rev. Thomas Myers, 4th street east, between F and G south.

*Foundry*—Rev. L. F. Morgan, corner of 14th street west and G street north.

*Wesley Chapel*—Rev. W. B. Edwards, corner of F street north and 5th street west.

*McKendree Chapel*—Rev. Wm. Hamilton, Massachusetts avenue, near 9th street west.

*Ryland Chapel*—Rev. J. S. Gorsuch, corner of Maryland avenue and 10th street west.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL—SOUTH.

Rev. Mr. Bennett, 8th street north, between H and I west.

METHODIST PROTESTANT.

Rev. W. T. Eva, 9th street west, between E and F north.

Rev. ——— ———, corner of Virginia avenue and 5th street east.

PRESBYTERIAN.

*First*—Rev. Mr. Ballatine, 4½ street west, between C and D north.

*Second*—Rev. J. R. Eckard, between New York avenue and H street north, and between 13th and 14th streets west.

*F Street*—Rev. James Laurie, D. D., and Rev. D. Junkin Christian, F street north, between 14th and 15th streets west.

*Fourth*—Rev. John C. Smith, 9th street west, between G and H streets north.

UNITARIAN.

Rev. Mr. Dewey, corner of D street north and 6th street west.

## BURIAL GROUNDS.

Generations pass while some trees stand, and old families last not three oaks. Oblivion is not to be hired. The greater part must be content to be as though they had not been; to be found in the register of God, not in the record of man. Twenty-seven names make up the first story before the flood, and the recorded names ever since contain not one living century.—*Sir Thomas Browne.*

In the vicinity of the city are several neat and convenient cemeteries. Western Burial ground, situated at the northern extremity of twentieth street, a little east of Rock Creek, is a quiet attractive spot, where grief may wander unmolested, and sad affection gather solace from the kindly aspect and gentle ministeries of nature.

The National or Congressional Burial Ground, is more imposing. This spot was selected in the year 1807, by a few of the citizens of Washington, and subsequently was placed under the direction of the vestry of Christ Church, an incorporated body. This cemetery is situated more than a mile east of the Capitol, embraces about ten acres, commands an extensive view of the country, is well enclosed with a brick wall, laid out with taste, and adorned with many shrubs and trees and impressive and beautiful monuments. In addition to several private vaults, is one spacious and well constructed, enclosed by a

neat iron railing, built at the expense and by order of Congress, as a place of deposite for the dead, whose remains it may be the purpose of friends subsequently to remove. Measures have been adopted to enlarge this cemetery, and some twenty acres additional will soon be brought within its limits. It is hoped that the entire enclosure may contain not less than fifty acres, and that the whole area may be planted and adorned with the good taste and judgment which render the cemeteries of Mount Auburn and Greenwood, so inviting to pensive minds.

"Tis too late," says a venerable old author, "to be ambitious. The great mutations of the world are acted, or time may be too short for our designs. To extend our memories by monuments, whose death we daily pray for, and whose duration we cannot hope, without injury to our expectations in the advent of the last day, were a contradiction to our belief. We whose generations are ordained in the setting part of time are providentially broken off from such imaginations, and, being necessitated to eye the remaining particle of futurity, are naturally constituted unto thoughts of the next world, and cannot excusably decline the consideration of that duration which maketh pyramids pillars of snow, and all that is past a monument." But human affections are stronger than argument, and will be found rearing monuments until old Time

himself is entombed among the ruins of the universe.

Two of the most imposing and expensive monuments in this cemetery are those erected to the memories of George Clinton, by his children, and to Elbridge Gerry, by order of Congress. These are in the northeast corner. In the southwest corner are several handsome, and some of them recently erected, monuments. Among them is a fine marble shaft standing upon a square pedestal, reared by Congress to the memory of Major General Jacob Brown, born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, May 5th, 1775, died 24th February, 1828. "By birth, by education, by principle, devoted to peace. In defence of his country and in vindication of her rights, a warrior. To her he dedicated his life; wounds received in her cause abridged his days." Here also stands an imposing marble monument, erected by the officers of the medical staff to the memory of Joseph Lovel, M. D., for many years Surgeon General of the army of the United States, born in 1788, died in 1836. A pyramidal monument, erected by his father, Commodore Rogers, is inscribed to Midshipman Rogers, who was drowned at the early age of seventeen, while engaged in noble efforts to save the lives of two of his companions, Midshipman Slidell and Harrison, who perished with him in 1828. A single marble monument is dedicated to the memo-

ries of Abel Parker Upshur and Commodore Beverly Kennon, bearing the following inscription: "The lamented men who lie together beneath this stone where united by the ties of friendship, which commenced in youth, and experienced no interruption till the awful moment when the lives of both were terminated by the explosion of the great gun of the Princeton frigate: United in life, in death they were not divided." A very fine white marble monument, made to represent exactly the mast of a ship violently broken off, is reared to the memory of the late George Mifflin Bache, of the brig Washington, and his associates who perished with him in the hurricane of September 3, 1846. "The gulf stream which they were engaged in exploring has received their bodies; this monument has been erected to their memory by their shipmates who shared their perils, but escaped their fate." One of the most beautiful and touching memorials of affection is a marble monument reared to commemorate the virtues of Captain Burdell Ashton Terrett, United States dragoons, who died at Fort Scott, Missouri, March 17, 1845. It bears on one side, "my husband," and a brief tribute concluding "and thy memory to me what the dew is to the rose;" on the other, "Our boy: Died at Fort Scott, Missouri, March 15, 1845, James Bludworth Terrett, aged one month: Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is

the kingdom of Heaven." Among the other monuments of striking interest, and chaste and beautiful design, may be mentioned one erected by Peter Von Schmidt to "Mariana," his wife, a native of Courtland, in Russia; one of marble and granite, inscribed to "Mary Ann," and several children of Charles Coltman; one of very fine proportions sacred to "Eliza, wife of G. C. Grammer;" a granite one to the late Judge Thurston; one to Judge Pendleton Barbour, adorned by many shrubs and flowers; and one of peculiar simplicity and elegance, dedicated to "our father," by the children of Peter Lenox.

Here in this secluded spot, this abode of silence, rest the remains of many members of Congress, and over the grave of each is erected a plain sandstone monument, painted white, and marked with the name of the deceased, also specifying the State from which he came, and the time of his death. We paused a moment as we read the names of Pinckney and of Lowndes, whose eloquent voices so often enchained their audiences with delight and admiration. The Roman poet would have inscribed over these great men, *Palma nobilis terrarum Dominos evehit ad Deos;* but perhaps the reflection of Job is more becoming this house appointed for all the living: "He leadeth princes away spoiled and overthroweth the mighty." Let our statesmen, amid the excitement of public life,

seek occasional retirement from the capitol, to meditate among the shaded walks of this cemetery, and these thickening emblems of mortality, that, in the deep silence and amid the graves of the dead, they may learn wisdom. Within view of the dome of the capitol, they will call to mind the lines of nature's great poet—

> "Like the baseless fabric of this vision,
> The cloud-capp'd towers, the gorgeous palaces,
> The solemn temples, the great globe itself,
> Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve,
> And, like this insubstantial pageant faded,
> Leave not a rack behind."

It may be proper to add, that this Burial Ground has recently been much enlarged and improved by the addition of the square immediately to the south, thus extending the ground to the top of the hill which overlooks the Eastern Branch, and the beautiful and rapidly improving grounds that lie on the opposite side of that river. Ground has also been purchased from the United States, with the view of extending the cemetery 286 feet farther east; and from its position it is capable of being so adorned, as to render this cemetery among the most interesting and attractive in the Union. The books and plans of the ground are kept with care, in order to prevent any

encroachment upon sites that have been sold. This cemetery is the place of repose to many distinguished strangers, and about 6,000 persons have been here interred.

## CAPITOL.

The Capitol of the United States stands on an eminence, eighty-seven feet above tide water, about a mile east of the Potomac, commanding a full view of the cities of Washington, Georgetown, and Alexandria, and the varied and forest-clad hills in Maryland and Virginia. This building was commenced in 1793. The dimensions are as follows: The enclosure within the iron railing contains thirty acres; length of foot-walk outside of railing a little upwards of one mile; extent of building, one acre and a half, and eighteen hundred and twenty feet; length of front, 352⅓ feet; depth of wing, 121½; east projection and steps, 65; west projection and steps, 83; height of wings to top of balustrade, 70; height to top of centre dome, 145; length of Senate chamber, 74; height of Senate chamber, 42; length of Representatives' room, 95; height of Representatives' room, 60; height of great central rotundo to the commencement of the small curve, 96; to the skylight, 122½; diameter of great central Rotundo, 96. The cost of the Capitol

CAPITOL

was nearly two millions of dollars. The building is surrounded by a balustrade of stone, and covered with a lofty dome in the centre, and a flat dome on each wing.

The exterior presents a rusticated basement of the height of the first story ; the two other stories are comprised in a Corinthian elevation of pilasters and columns. The columns are thirty feet in height, and compose a portico on the eastern front of one hundred and sixty feet in extent, the centre of which is crowned by a tympanum, embellished with a group of statuary, the composition of John Quincy Adams, then President of the United States, offered by him after forty designs had been rejected. The *Genius of America*, a colossal figure, holds in her right hand an oval shield, resting lightly on a slender altar, on the front of which is an oaken wreath in bas relief with the words "July 4, 1776," within it. A spear rests behind, a star surmounts her head, which is turned towards the figure of *Hope*, who gazes with smiling animation, and, while her left arm rests on an anchor, lifts her right in exultation, and as though anticipating the glory of the republic. The Genius points with one hand to her shield and spear, and with the other to Justice having in her hand the constitution of the United States. *Justice*, with eyes raised towards heaven, holds in her right hand the constitution, and in her left the scales emblematical of her office ;

TYMPANUM.

and she has neither bandage nor sword, showing that with us justice is clear-sighted respecting the rights of all. The moral is that America will regard only public rights and the preservation of the constitution. An eagle, finished with great beauty, is at the feet of the Genius, its head is raised and its wings partly expanded, as if ready to fly at her command. This group was executed by Persico.

On the southern abutment of the grand steps is Persico's group, the *Discovery of America*. It consists of two marble figures—Columbus, having landed for the first time upon the shores of America, and an Indian female startled at the appearance of a stranger of an unknown race. The group well represents the character of Columbus, the contrast between the European and the Indian, and the triumph of science and perseverance in the discovery of a new world; while it but too clearly foreshadows the fading away of the red men before the face of the whites. The armor upon the statue of Columbus is said to be accurate to a rivet, having been copied from a suit in the palace of the descendants of the discoverer at Genoa. Persico was employed five years upon this group.

On the north side of the great entrance door from the Portico to the Rotundo, stands the statue of *War*, also by Persico. It is made of Carrara marble, and is about nine feet high. War is represented in the costume of an ancient warrior.

COLUMBUS.

His helmet presses upon his brow, and his breast is covered with the iron corslet. He leans with his right hand upon his shield, and with his left brings his sword up to his heart, across which it lies in readiness for combat. His eyes are lowering with anger, and his whole attitude indicates a roused and excited temper. There is, however, nothing fierce in the expression. A manly sense of power and right, and calm indignation, seem to pervade the figure. The finish given to this statue is very high.

On the other side of the door stands the beatific figure of *Peace*. The maiden, clothed in a simple garb, is in the act of extending the olive branch to her warlike brother. A smile of calm and sublime repose hovers about her eyes, and her attitude is one of simple and guileless innocence.

Entering the *Rotundo* the beholder is struck by its extent, height, and beautiful proportions. The panels of this magnificent circular hall are appropriated to paintings and to bas-reliefs of historical subjects.

Four of the panels of the Rotundo are occupied by Trumbull's great Historical Paintings, which merit more than a passing notice. Colonel Trumbull, the artist, a son of the first Governor Trumbull, of Lebanon, Connecticut, was one of the aids-de-camp of General Washington in the first year of the Revolution, and in 1776 was Deputy

WAR.

PEACE.

Adjutant General of the northern department under General Gates. Shortly after the Revolution he devoted himself to the study of the art of painting, first in this country, and afterwards in Europe. In 1786 he produced in London his great historical picture of the battle of Bunker's Hill. He communicated at that time to our Minister in London, Mr. John Adams, and Mr. Jefferson in Paris, his purpose of executing several pictures commemorative of some of the principal events of the Revolution.

In 1789 Colonel Trumbull returned to the United States, and having obtained the portraits of General Washington, and several other distinguished men then in New York, he subsequently visited many parts of the country to collect others; but it was not until 1816, that Congress by resolution authorized the execution of the four paintings which now, from his pencil, adorn the capitol, and will transmit to coming generations a vivid and correct view of the patriots whose valor and wisdom secured independence to the United States.

*Declaration of Independence.*—The artist spared neither labor nor expense to present correct likenesses of the great men who gave this immortal instrument to the world. The costume of the time is carefully preserved; the room is copied from that in which Congress then held their sessions, though the back-ground is embellished with some

military trophies, and the entire scene is one of the most impressive that can be imagined.

*Surrender of Burgoyne, 17th October*, 1777.—This painting represents General Burgoyne, attended by General Phillips, and followed by other officers, drawing near the marquee of General Gates. Gen. Gates has advanced a few steps from the entrance to meet his prisoner, who, with General Phillips, has dismounted, and is in the act of offering his sword, which General Gates declines to receive, and invites them to enter and partake of refreshments. Fish Creek and the North river are seen in the distance, and troops crossing the meadows, and officers on horseback precede the head of the column and follow the dismounted Generals.

*Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, October* 19, 1781.—Lord Cornwallis surrendered to the combined forces of America and France, and the honor of marching out of town, which had been refused to General Lincoln, when he surrendered during the preceding campaign at Charleston, was denied him. The British troops marched out between the lines of the American and French troops to a place appointed, grounded and left their arms, and returned unarmed to town. "The painting represents the moment when the principal officers of the British army, conducted by General Lincoln, are passing the two groups of American and French Generals, and entering between the two

lines of the victors. By this means the principal officers of the three nations are brought near together, so as to admit of distinct portraits. The portraits of the French officers were obtained in Paris in 1787, and were painted from living men in the house of Mr. Jefferson, then Minister to France."

*Resignation of General Washington at Annapolis, December* 23, 1783.—After bidding farewell to his old comrades in the war, General Washington hastened to Annapolis, and there resigned his commission to Congress. The Maryland Gazette, in allusion to the resignation by General Washington, remarked: "Here we must let fall the scene—few tragedies ever drew more tears from so many beautiful eyes, as were affected by the moving manner in which his Excellency took his final leave of Congress. After which he immediately set out for Virginia, accompanied to South river, by his excellency our Governor, with the warmest wishes of the city for his repose, health, and happiness. Long may he enjoy them."

Besides Trumbull's four paintings, are three others, leaving still one vacant panel.

*Baptism of Pocahontas.*—This picture is by Mr. J. G. Chapman, and represents a beautiful incident in the life of one whose history will ever be interesting to Americans, and who is said to have been the first convert to the Christian faith from the

Indians of North America. "Pocahontas is kneeling on the steps of the rude baptismal font, in an attitude of deep humility and devotion; her dress is pure white, with a snowy mantle of swan's skin, tipped with plumage, just falling from her shoulders. Her hair flows negligently over her neck and back, and her features and complexion are those of the Indian, though less beautiful than she is said to have been in life." A beautiful portrait of her is preserved in Colonel M'Kenney's work on the Indians. The chapel in which the scene occurs is copied from one of the earliest rustic churches. Pocahontas was well instructed in Christianity, and Smith relates, that "after her baptism she never had a desire to live with her father or his people, who would by no means turn from their idolatry, that thereby they might confess the true faith, which she embraced with all her heart, from that time mourning her former blindness and imbecility. Her poor dear father, she said, although at times, he was not angry with her, yet would by no means give up an idolatrous religion to which he had been so long used."

*Embarkation of the Pilgrims.*—This picture, by Weir, represents a scene of pathetic interest, when the pilgrim fathers of New England have just embarked from a port of Holland on their high enterprize, and the venerable Robinson is commending them to Heaven, when about to spread their

sails for the new world. Religion is the presiding spirit of the scene, though Standish kneels like a soldier, and the whole company seem of those whose fear of God has expelled all other fear. One is reminded of the fine lines by Mrs. Hemans—

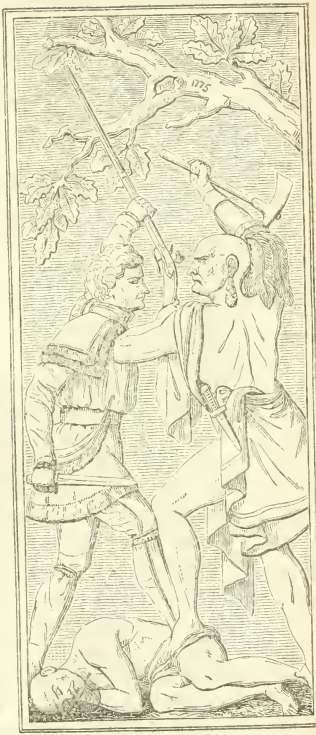
Not as the conqueror comes,
They, the true hearted, came;
Not with the roll of the stirring drums,
And the trumpet that sings of fame;

Not as the flying come,
In silence and in fear;
They shook the depths of the desert gloom,
With their hymns of lofty cheer.

*The Landing of Columbus in the New World.*—This picture is by Vanderlyn, and, though different opinions have been expressed of its merits, all must be struck with the resolution and devotion blended in the aspect of Columbus, as he bears the standard of civilization, and points the sword of authority towards the earth, dedicating, with uplifted eye towards heaven, the new world to the Divine Author of christianity.

Over each of the four entrances to the Rotundo is sculptured, in a panel, a scene from American history. Over the northern door leading to the Senate Chamber, is a representation of William Penn; under a spreading elm, engaged in making a

PENN'S TREATY.

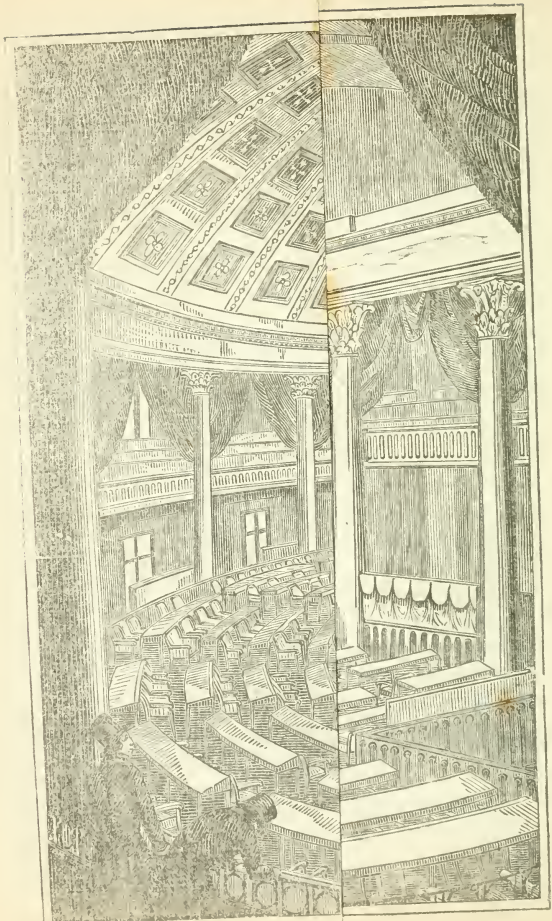



BOONE & INDIANS.

treaty with the Indians. This work is by Geszelot, a Frenchman.

On the panel over the southern door, leading to the Hall of the House of Representatives, is Daniel Boone, the hero and pioneer of Kentucky, engaged in conflict with the Indians. The figures are of colossal size. Boone's aspect is calm and intrepid; the face of the Indian in combat, ferocious; and at the feet of the warriors is the form of a dead Indian, which is thought admirably to express the proud spirit of a fallen savage, unsubdued even in death. This is by Causici. Some years ago, a band of Winnebagos came through the Rotundo. They were all noble looking fellows, dressed in their own barbaric uniform. Their faces were painted of various colors, in their belts were their scalping knives and tomahawks, and over their backs their long iron-looking bows and arrows.—As they were passing through the Rotundo, their attention was arrested by this group of statuary—Boone killing the Indian. They formed a semicircle, and the head man stepped forward and stood before the rest. They looked intently for some moments, scrutinizing and recognizing every part of the scene, and suddenly, as of one impulse, they raised their dreadful war-cry and ran hurriedly from the hall.

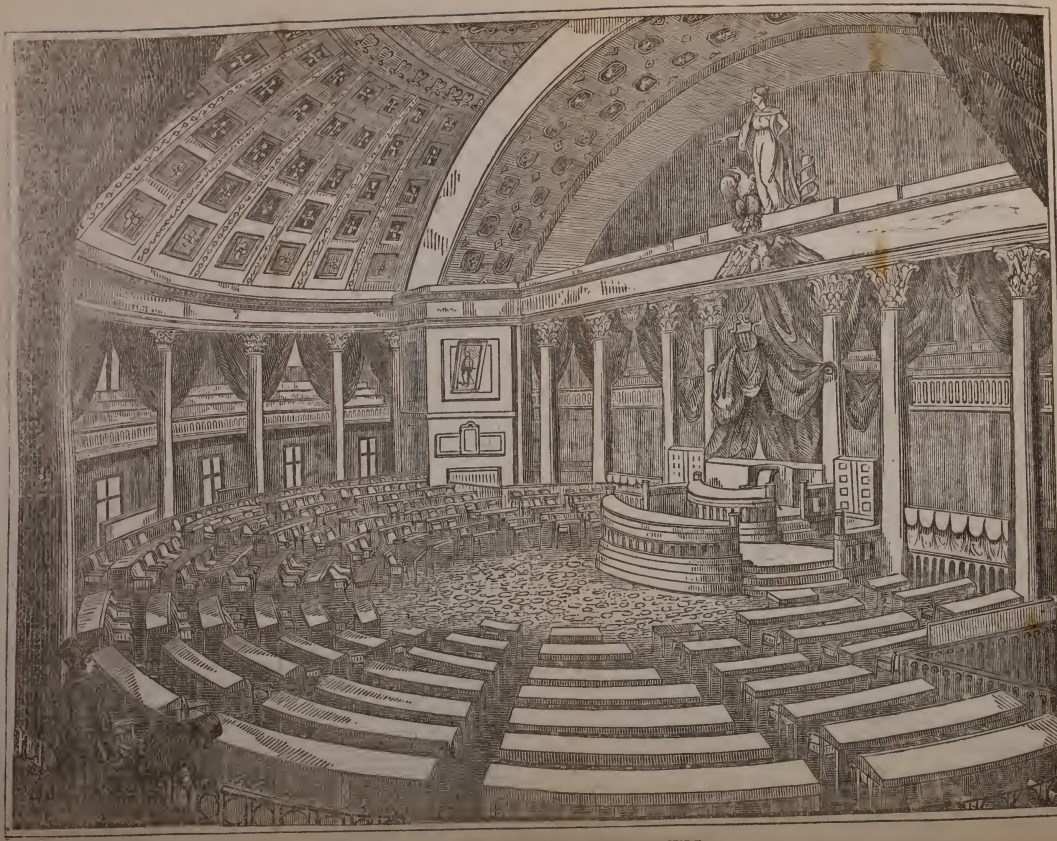
Over the eastern door is represented the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers upon the rock of Plymouth.



The boat has just touched the foot of the rock, and in the prow is a pilgrim in the act of landing. His little son seems to caution him ere he ventures among the savages. But the mother, with her eyes elevated to Heaven, places her trust there, and restrains the boy. Seated on the rock is an Indian, holding in his hand an ear of corn, as an emblem of friendship. The conception of this work is noble—how could it be otherwise, commemorating one of the sublimest incidents in the annals of mankind ?

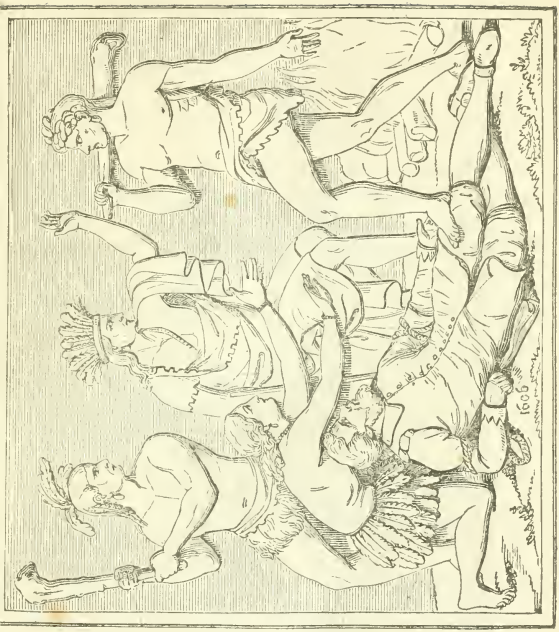
In a panel over the western door of the Rotundo, is the rescue of Captain Smith from the Indians, by the Indian Princess Pocahontas, executed by Cappalano.

The Hall of the Representatives is in the second story of the south wing, and is of the form of the ancient Grecian theatre. The chord of the largest dimension is ninety-six feet. The height to the highest point of the ceiling of the dome is sixty feet. This room is surrounded by twenty-four columns of variegated marble, from the banks of the Potomac, with capitals of white Italian marble, carved, by Andrei, after the Corinthian order still remaining among the ruins of Athens. The dome is rich and grand, similar to the Pantheon of Rome, and executed by a young Italian artist, Bonani, now dead. Light is admitted through a cupola over the centre of the dome. The Speaker's chair



HALL OF THE REPRESENTATIVES.

LANDING OF THE PILGRIMS.



CAPTAIN SMITH & POCAHONTAS.

is elevated above the floor, and canopied; above it, and under an arch, is the statue of Liberty, by Causici; and on the entablature beneath is an American eagle, copied from nature by an Italian artist, Valaperte, who has left but this one specimen of his talent in this country.

In front of the Speaker's chair and immediately over the entrance to the hall, is a marble statue of History recording the events of the nation. She is standing on a winged car, traversed by the signs of the zodiac, the wheel of the car composed of a clock. The whole is of beautiful structure and design. It was executed by Iardella, an Italian.

On one side of the recess is a portrait of Lafayette, executed in full length by a French artist, and said to be an admirable likeness of the illustrious Frenchman. Opposite to this, to correspond, is a portrait of Washington, painted by Vanderlyn.

Between the columns at this base, are sofas placed for persons admitted by rule and privilege to the floor of the House; while in the area sit the members at mahogany desks.

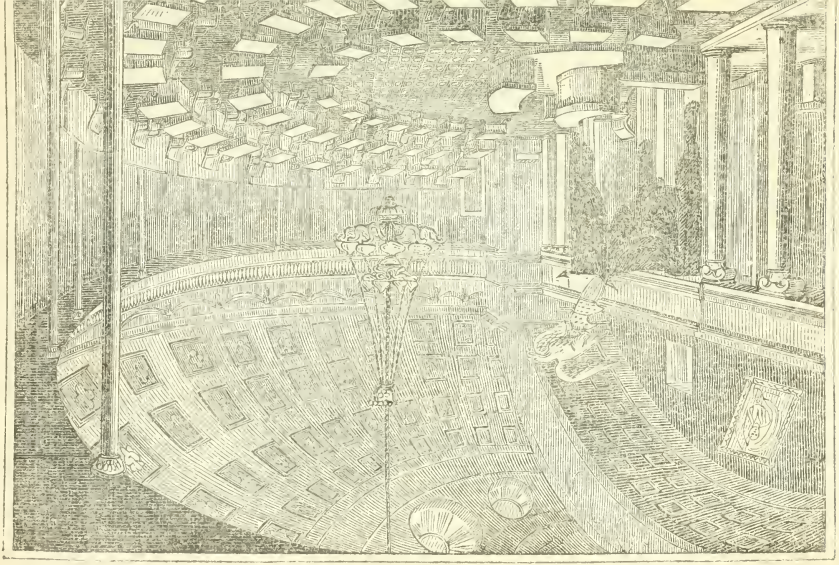
The northern door of the Rotundo leads into the vestibule of the *Senate* Chamber. This chamber is adorned by a screen of Ionic columns, after those of the temple of Minerva Polias. These columns support the gallery to the east, and a new gallery of iron pillars and railings prop it from the semicircular wall to the west, and support a gallery for

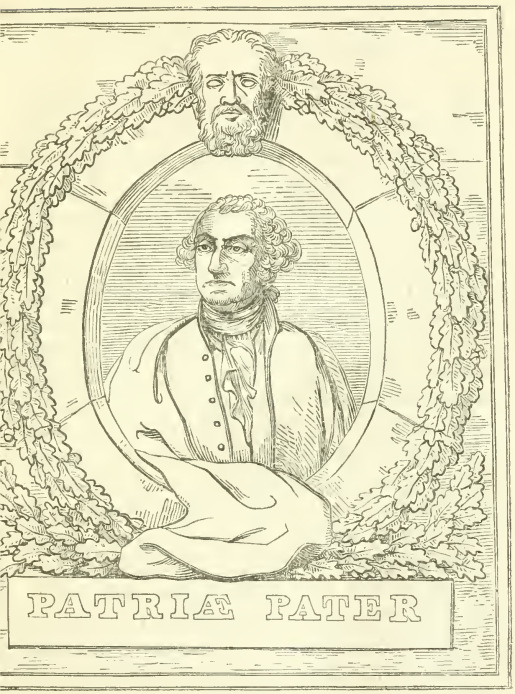
CLOCK IN REPRESENTATIVES' HALL.

the use of ladies. The chair of the president is a canopied elevation under the eastern gallery and overlooks the floor of the Senate. In the area, the Senators sit in a semi-circular form, each at his mahogany desk. Over the President's chair is an admirable portrait of Washington, by Charles Wilson Peale.

In the basement of the north wing is the *Supreme Court Room* of the United States.

The *Library Room* is constructed with great taste and beauty, is ninety-two feet in length, thirty-four in width, and thirty-six in length, having alcoves, over which are two galleries extending throughout the apartment. The room is handsomely ornamented, and light is admitted both from ample windows and from three skylights above. The architect of this room was Mr. G. Bulfinch. There is a pleasant retired apartment on the north, suitable for persons who may desire a quiet place for writing or study. Mr. Jefferson's library, embracing about seven thousand volumes, was purchased in 1815, for $23,000, and the whole number of volumes, which have been selected with care, is near forty thousand. Mr. George Watterston was appointed Librarian in 1816 ; the present librarian, Mr. Meehan, was appointed in 1829. A small annual appropriation is made by Congress for the increase of this library, and purchases are made under the direction of a joint committee of both houses. The






PEALE'S WASHINGTON.

books are well arranged, and every attention is paid to those who may desire to avail themselves of its advantages.

The library is open daily, Sundays excepted, during the session of Congress, from nine to three, and from five to seven, P. M., and in the absence of Congress on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, during the same hours. The privilege of taking books from the library is restricted to members of Congress, and officers of the General Government.

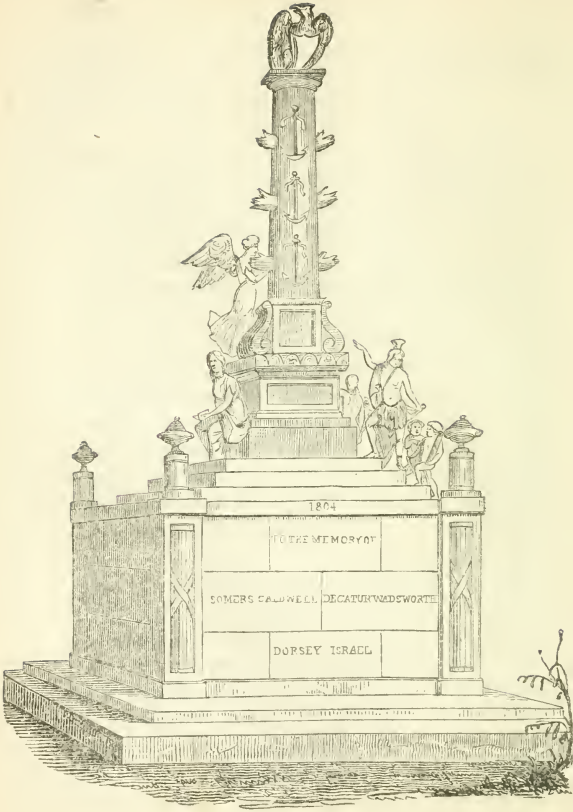
The President having been authorized by an act of the last session of Congress to enlarge the Capitol, and an appropriation of $100,000 having been made for that purpose for the commencement of the work, the plan of Mr. Walter, of Philadelphia, was adopted for the addition of two wings. The corner stone of the southern extension was laid on the 4th of July of the present year, (1851,) in the presence of the President and Cabinet, a large and imposing military array, and an immense concourse of citizens. The same masonic implements used by Washington on the occasion of laying of the first corner stone of the Capitol, were used on this occasion by B. B. French, Grand Master of the District of Columbia. When thus enlarged, the Capitol will be made one of the most imposing edifices in the world.

## NAVAL MONUMENT.

Near the western entrance to the Capitol stands the monument erected by the officers of the Navy to the memory of their brother officers who fell in the war with Tripoli. It stood originally at the Navy Yard, but was removed a few years since to the Capitol grounds. It is of marble, and about forty feet high. On one side of the base is a view of Tripoli and the American fleet; on another, the words "To the memory of Sommers, Caldwell, Decatur, Wadsworth, Dorsey, Israel;" and on another, their epitaph—a brief, but comprehensive and eloquent history. At the base of the column are four marble emblematic figures, Mercury, Fame, History, and America. The column has appropriate embellishments, and is surmounted by an eagle.

## CAPITOL GROUNDS.

The grounds around the Capitol, as well as around the President's House, have recently been planted and adorned with taste, and afford, in the mild seasons of the year, inviting and shady walks, much frequented by citizens and strangers. Much yet remains to be done, and each successive year reveals some new improvement; and when the




NAVAL MONUMENT.

Smithsonian Institution shall be completed, and its gardens brought under cultivation, when the grounds around the Observatory shall be properly laid out, and enriched with flowers and shrubbery, and especially when the entire extended mall which opens from the Capitol to the Potomac, shall exhibit noble elms, sycamore, oak, and other trees, beneath the shade of which may gather the meditative, the young, and the beautiful, where our statesmen may wander and refresh themselves when weary of political cares and incessant agitations, our scholars gain strength for their quiet labors, and visiters from remote States and distant countries contemplate with admiration the opening evidences that here in a city bearing the immortal name of Washington, art, science, and liberty dwell in peaceful communion, their lights blending, as reflected from numerous imposing monuments, and mingling with those more soft and cheering from the more varied scenery of nature; this city will become what its great Founder intended, and be worthy of the nation which he conducted to liberty and independence.

## PRESIDENT'S HOUSE.

Strangers in the Metropolis visit with eager curiosity, as one of the first objects of interest, the President's mansion. It is situated in the western

part of the city, on a plat of ground of twenty acres, forty-four feet above high water. It has a southern and northern front, the southern commanding a lovely view of the Potomac. On both fronts the grounds are laid out with taste, and planted with forest trees and shrubbery. The walks are of gravel, broad, and delightful. The mansion is of two stories, one hundred and seventy feet front, and eighty-six feet deep, and is built of white free stone, with Ionic pilasters. The northern front is ornamented with a lofty portico of four Ionic columns in front, and projecting with three columns. Beneath this portico drive the carriages of visiters.

Immediately opposite the front door, across a large open vestibule or hall, is the Reception Room. The paper of this room is very beautiful, of a pearl white, with a small gilt figure. The carpet is said to be of American manufacture in imitation of Brussels. The ground is of fawn color with figures of baskets of flowers, and the centre table is of fine white marble. The pier table has a white marble top on a handsome gilt frame. The sofas and chairs of this room have gilt frames, and are covered with blue and white damask; the curtains are of the same material, lined with delicate flesh colored silk. Two large mirrors stand opposite to each other, and a large chandelier, with many lights, is suspended from the ceiling, and in the evening

PRESIDENT'S HOUSE

gives a peculiar splendor by its reflection. Communicating with the Reception Room is a large square room, known now as the Green Room, of thirty by twenty-two feet. The sofa and chairs have gilt frames, and are covered with green and white damask, and the curtains are of the same material. Two large mirrors and a marble pier table adorn this room, the floor being covered with a dark Wilton carpet, and the chandelier having twenty lights.

We now enter the celebrated East Room, which in extent is eighty feet long by forty wide, and twenty-two in height. There are four mantles of black marble, with Italian black and gold fronts, and handsome grates ; each mantel is surmounted with a French mirror, the plates of which measure one hundred by fifty-eight inches, framed in a very beautiful style ; two rich French vases adorn each mantel piece ; four other large mirrors, two at each end of the room reflect the rays from three large chandeliers with twenty-seven lights each, and beneath each of the chandeliers is a beautiful table of marble set in mahogany ; four pier tables correspond in style to the centre tables, all standing on bronze feet. The curtains are of heavy crimson damask, surrounded by rich gilt cornices ; the chairs and sofas are of mahogany, covered with rich worsted, woven to represent flowers, in a great variety of colors ; the carpet, of American manu-

facture, was prepared expressly for this room, and is of a brown, crimson, and orange color, with the figure of an eagle.

The following extracts from letters written by Mrs. Adams, the lady of the first President of that name, throw much light upon the condition of this house, and also of this city, as they were in 1800.

MRS. ABIGAIL ADAMS TO MRS. SMITH.

*Washington, November* 21, 1800.

In the city are buildings enough, if they were compact and finished, to accommodate Congress and those attached to it; but as they are, I see no great comfort for them. The river, which runs up to Alexandria, is in full view of my window and I see the vessels as they pass and repass. The house is upon a grand and superb scale, requiring about thirty servants to attend and keep the apartments in proper order, and perform the ordinary business of the house and stables; an establishment very well proportioned to the President's salary. The lighting the apartments, from the kitchen to the parlors and chambers, is a tax indeed; and the fires we are obliged to keep, to secure us from daily agues, is another very cheering comfort. To assist us in this great castle, and render less attendance necessary, bells are wholly wanting, not

one single one being hung through the whole house, and promises are all you can obtain. This is so great an inconvenience, that I know not what to do or how to do. Thela dies from Georgetown and in the city have many of them visited me. Yesterday I returned fifteen visits; but such a place as Georgetown appears—why, our Milton is beautiful. But no comparisons;—if they will put me up some bells, and let me have wood enough to keep fires, I design to be pleased. I could content myself almost any where three months; but surrounded with forests can you believe that wood is not to be had, because people cannot be found to cut and cart it! Briesler entered into a contract with a man to supply him with wood. A small part, a few cords only, has he been able to get. Most of that was expended to dry the walls of the house before we came in, and yesterday the man told him it was impossible for him to procure it to be cut and carted. He has had recourse to coals; but we cannot get grates made and set. We have indeed come into *a new country*.

You must keep this to yourself, and, when asked how I like it, say that I write you the situation is beautiful, which is true. The house is made habitable, but there is not a single apartment finished, and all withinside, except the plastering, has been done since Briesler came. We have not the least fence, or yard, or other convenience without; and

the great unfinished audience room I make a drying room of, to hang up the clothes in. The principal stairs are not up, and will not be this winter. Six chambers are made comfortable; two are occupied by the President and Mr. Shaw; two lower rooms, one for a common parlor, and one for a levee room. Upstairs there is the oval room, which is designed for the drawing room and has the crimson furniture in it. It is a very handsome room now; but when completed, it will be beautiful. If the twelve years, in which this place has been considered as the future seat of government, had been improved, as they would have been if in New England, very many of the inconveniences would have been removed. It is a beautiful spot, capable of every improvement, and the more I view it the more I am delighted with it.

MRS. ADAMS TO MRS. SMITH.

*Washington, November* 21, 1800.

* * * Two articles we are much distressed for; one is bells, but the more important one is wood. Yet you cannot see for trees. No arrangement has been made yet, but promises never performed, to supply the new comers with fuel. Of the promises, Briesler had received his full share. He had procured nine cords of wood; between six and seven of that was kindly burnt up to dry the

walls of the house, which ought to have been done by the commissioners, but which, if left to them, would have remained undone to this day. Congress poured in, but shiver, shiver. No wood-cutters or carters to be had at any rate. We are now indebted to a Pennsylvania wagon to bring us, through the first clerk in the Treasury office, one cord and a half of wood, which is all we have for this house, where twelve fires are constantly required, and where, we are told, the roads will soon be so bad that it cannot be drawn. Briesler procured two hundred bushels of coals, or we must have suffered. This is the situation of almost every person. The public officers have sent to Philadelphia for wood-cutters and wagons. * * *

The ladies are impatient for a drawing room; I have no looking-glasses but dwarfs for this house; nor a twentieth part lamps enough to light it.

## STATUE OF JEFFERSON.

This very fine bronze statue now stands in the small square immediately in front of the President's house. It is among the very best statues in the country. It was presented to the Government by Captain Levy of the United States Navy, a gentleman devotedly attached to the memory of Mr. Jefferson, and who now is the owner of Monticello, the former abode of that great man. The statue

STATUE OF JEFFERSON.

stands on a pedestal, and in his left hand Jefferson holds a scroll of the Declaration of Independence, and in his right hand a pen, as though he had just finished that immortal instrument, and was anticipating the glorious results of its influence—the terror it would strike among the foes of freedom—the strength with which it would nerve the patriot's heart—the bitter opposition which it would meet with from some—the joy with which it would be hailed by more—and, if adopted, the high destinies which awaited young America. The country has never been informed of the persevering and expensive efforts made by Capt. Levy to secure this statue, nor of the merits of the French artist whose enthusiasm was hardly surpassed by the individual who rewarded him for this admirable production of his skill and genius. It now occupies an eligible position, and will long stand in honor alike of the great man it so faithfully represents and of the noble spirit of patriotism that secured and presented it to the nation. It formerly stood in the Rotundo of the Capitol.

## STATE DEPARTMENT.

The State Department is a plain building, of brick, two stories in height, one hundred and sixty feet long and fifty-five wide, with a spacious passage running through its whole length, both on the

TREASURY.

first and second floors, to the latter of which the ascent is by a wide staircase in the centre. The building contains thirty-two rooms, besides those in the attic. The first floor is occupied by the Fifth Auditor of the Treasury at the east end, and the Second Comptroller of the Treasury at the west end. On the second floor are the apartments of the Secretary of State and his suite; also the library of the Department, containing some ten or twelve thousand volumes, selected with care, and relating especially to subjects of diplomacy and international law, with the laws and reports of the several States of the Union.

## TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

This noble structure, adjoining on the south the State Department, is three hundred and forty feet in length from north to south, and one hundred and seventy from east to west. When completed, by the addition of the north and south wings, its length will be four hundred and fifty-seven feet. In front is an imposing colonnade, stretching the entire length of the building, after the architecture of the temple of Minerva Polias, at Athens. This portico is of the finest proportions, and the entire building does great credit to the taste and judgment of its architect, Mr. Robert Mills. The main entrance is on the east by a double flight of steps

Each floor contains forty-five apartments. The first or colonnade floor is occupied by the Treasurer of the United States and Third Auditor, in the centre or west building; the First Auditor in the north; and the Attorney General and Solicitor of the Treasury in the south. On the second floor, in the centre building, are the apartments of the Secretary of the Treasury and his suite; in the south, those of the First Comptroller and Register of the Treasury, who also occupies a suite of rooms in the north and centre: the library of the Department is also on this floor. The third floor is occupied entirely by the General Land Office.

## WAR DEPARTMENT.

Numerous and earnest appeals have been made to Congress for a larger and fire-proof building for the War Department, the present one being not only exposed every moment to destruction by fire, but so small, compared with the requirements of the Department, that many of the bureaus are compelled to occupy rented private houses. It is situated on the west side of the President's square, and is similar in design to the Department of State. On the first floor are the Major General, Quartermaster General, Adjutant General, and Second Auditor of the Treasury; on the second floor the Secretary of War and his suite at the east end,

and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs at the west end.

The banners of the principal victories in the war of the Revolution, in the subsequent war with Great Britain, and many trophies recently won from Mexico, are carefully preserved in this Department. Among these are the flags taken at Saratoga, the Cowpens, and York; the flags under which Scott and Jesup and their brave companions fought and conquered are literally riddled through with shot of the foe; and here will be seen the flag, with an eagle wrought in silk, presented by the ladies of Philadelphia to Gen. Pike, and many others of great interest.

The Engineer Bureau occupies the building on the northwest corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Seventeenth street, opposite diagonally to the War Department.

The Bureau of Topographical Engineers occupies the first floor of the double tenement of brick on Seventeenth street, opposite to the War Department. The Ordnance Bureau occupies the third floor, and the Subsistence Bureau the second floor of the same building.

The Paymaster General occupies the second and third floors of the building adjoining south the one mentioned above, and the Pension Bureau the one adjoining north.

The Medical Bureau occupies a building on the

north side of G street, a short distance west of the War Department.

A fine block of buildings erecting opposite the Navy Department, to be rented by the Government, will afford better temporary accommodations than at present.

## NAVY DEPARTMENT.

This building is situated south of the War Department, to which it is similar in design, and is of the same dimensions.

On the first floor is the Fourth Auditor of the Treasury at the east end; and the Bureau of Construction, Equipment, and Repairs, and the Bureau of Provisions and Clothing, at the west end. The Secretary of the Navy and his suite occupy the east end of the second floor; the Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography, and the Bureau of Medicine, the west end and centre.

"Between thirty and forty national flags, trophies of battle struck to 'a bit of striped bunting,' decorate one of the rooms of the Navy Commissioners. They are well arranged and labelled, showing the names of the vessels to which they once belonged. Some of these bear evidence of the strife which took place before they were struck to the stars and stripes of the Union."

This, as well as the State and War Departments,

GENERAL POST OFFICE

is becoming inconvenient from its small size for the growing necessities of the nation. We shall doubtless see at no remote day, buildings rising, more safe, more ample, and in materials and proportions of a richer and nobler architecture.

## POST OFFICE.

This beautiful edifice, after the design of Mr. Mills, is of the Corinthian order, of white marble, three stories high, extending two hundred and four feet in front, and one hundred and two feet in the depth of its wings. Its main front is on E street north; its east wing fronts on Seventh-street, and its west wing on Eighth street. It contains eighty-one rooms, twenty-seven on each floor, and occupies the site of the old Post Office building, burnt on the 15th December, 1836.

The first floor, west wing, is occupied by the Receiving Office, Dead Letter Office, and the Topographer of the Post Office Department; the east wing and centre by the Examining and Register Clerks of the Auditor's Office. On the second floor, west wing and centre, are the Postmaster General, his three Assistants, and the chief clerk of the department, and principal clerks of the Contract, Appointment, and Inspection Offices; in the east wing, the Auditor of the Post Office, his chief and other clerks in more immediate connection with

him. The third floor, west wing, is occupied chiefly by the clerks of the Contract Office; the centre and east wing by the Auditor's clerks.

## THE PATENT OFFICE.

The building now occupied by this office is located on F street north, between 7th and 9th streets west. It is thoroughly fire-proof in its construction. The original design contemplates a very extensive edifice, commensurate to the objects for which it was intended. The portion of building now occupied by this office extends 270 feet, by a depth of 70 feet, and divided into two lofty stories, above a high basement. The *principal* front looks down 8th street, where a noble portico (a *fac simile* of that of the celebrated *Pantheon*) forms the principal feature of the building, and where is the grand entrance by a flight of granite steps, leading into a large hall, containing a splendid and double flight of marble steps, ascending to spacious galleries above. The passage below on the *right* leads to the office rooms of the Commissioner of Patents; that on the *left* to the large model room, filled with the rich gifts of mechanical science and art, disposed in glass cases. The second floor is thrown into one grand saloon, appropriately named the National Gallery, where are exhibited specimens of home manufactures, numer-

ous subjects of natural history, &c. The length of this hall is 264 feet, width 64 feet, and height 30 feet, ornamented with a quadruple row of massive stone Doric columns, rising with their entablature twenty feet, above which spring a series of vaulted ceilings ten feet higher, covering the whole area, and forming a highly ornamented plafond. In the center of this Gallery a grand cylindrical arch of 40 feet span towers above the rest, pierced with an aperture 13 feet in diameter, which admits the light from above—the whole constructed with solid masonry. This splendid hall has been appropriated, since 1842, to the collection of natural history, &c., brought home by the United States Naval Exploring Expedition; which has since been arranged, and is still under the superintendence of Commander Charles Wilkes, the celebrated commander of the expedition. This hall contains, in addition to the above, many curiosities belonging to the Departments of State, War and Navy, United States. In the basement story of this building is a large room at the west end for the reception of full-sized models; the rooms at the east end are occupied as offices—one is appropriated to the meetings and library of the National Institute Society.

Congress, in 1849, made an appropriation for the extension of the Patent Office building, by wings, one of which, east side, is in a forward

state to completion. This wing, when completed, will provide extensive accommodations for the Patent Office proper, and rooms are providing in the east wing for the reception of the Department of the Interior, which is charged with the Patent Office Bureau. This bureau, however, will have the benefit of the magnificent hall now constructing on the same level with that already described, 270 feet long, 65 feet wide, and 30 feet high, ornamented with a double colonnade of marble pillars, rising, with their entablatures, 20 feet high, and supporting a vaulted ceiling, formed of grooved arches, of upwards of 20 feet span, all of solid masonry, which constitutes the fire-proof character of the whole building. This vast room will be opened into the great gallery already described in the first building, by a lofty arch-way. The west wing, when completed, is intended also to have a similar gallery on this level, so that, when the northern section of the building shall be erected there will be a continuous gallery around the whole structure a quarter of a mile long.

The wings now erecting are faced outside with white marble, and on the court front with granite, both from the Maryland quarries. The work is admirably well done, reflecting the greatest credit on the architect, and the contractors of the work.

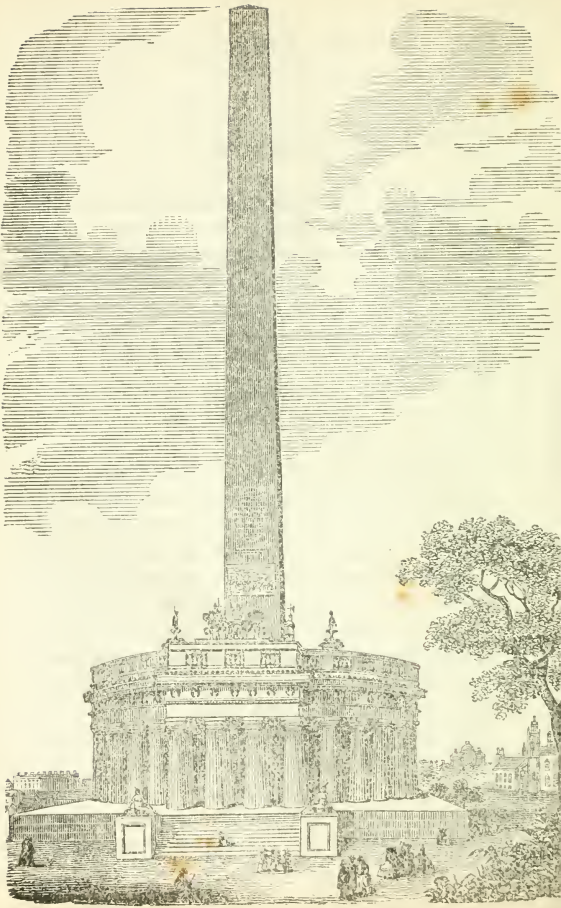
## WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

Below is a full description of the design adopted by the Board of Managers for the monument which it is contemplated to erect at the seat of government to the memory of WASHINGTON, from voluntary contributions.

The design embraces the idea of a grand circular colonnaded building, 250 feet in diameter, and 100 feet high, from which springs an obelisk shaft 70 feet at the base and 500 feet high, making a total elevation of 600 feet.

This vast rotundo, forming the grand base of the Monument, is surrounded by 30 columns of massive proportions, being 12 feet in diameter and 45 feet high, elevated upon a lofty base or stylobate of 20 feet elevation and 300 feet square, surmounted by an entablature 20 feet high, and crowned by a massive balustrade 15 feet in height.

The terrace outside of the colonnade is 25 feet wide, and the pronaos or walk within the colonnade, including the column space, 25 feet. The walks enclosing the cella, or gallery within, are fretted with 30 massive antæ (pilasters) 10 feet wide, 45 feet high, and 7½ feet projection, answering to the columns in front, surmounted by their appropriate architrave. The deep recesses formed



WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

by the projection of the antæ, provide suitable niches for the reception of statues.

A tetrastyle portico (4 columns in front) in triple rows of the same proportions and order with the columns of the colonnade, distinguishes the entrance to the Monument, and serves as a pedestal for the triumphal car and statue of the illustrious chief; the steps of this portico are flanked by massive blockings, surmounted by appropriate figures and trophies.

Over each column, in the great frieze of the entablatures around the entire building, are sculptured escutcheons, coats of arms of each State in the Union, surrounded by bronze civic wreaths banded together by festoons of oak leaves, &c., all of which spring (each way) from the centre of the portico, where the coat of arms of the United States are emblazoned. The statues surrounding the rotundo outside, under the colonnade, are all elevated upon pedestals, and will be those of the glorious signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Ascending the portico outside to the terrace level, a lofty vomitoria (door way) 30 feet high leads into the cella, (rotundo gallery,) 50 feet wide, 500 feet in circumference, and 60 feet high, with a colossal pillar in the centre 70 feet in diameter, around which the gallery sweeps. This pillar forms the foundation of the obelisk column above.

Both sides of the gallery are divided into spaces by pilasters, elevated on a continued zocle or base 5 feet high, forming an order with its entablature, 40 feet high, crowned by a vaulted ceiling 20 feet high, divided by radiating archevaults, corresponding with the relative positions of the opposing pilasters, and enclosing deep sunken coffers enriched with paintings.

The spaces between the pilasters are sunk into niches for the reception of the statues of the fathers of the Revolution, contemporary with the immortal WASHINGTON; over which are large tablets to receive the National Paintings commemorative of the battle and other scenes of that memorable period. Opposite to the entrance of this gallery, at the extremity of the great circular wall, is the grand niche for the reception of the statue of the "Father of his country," elevated on its appropriate pedestal, and designated as *principal* in the group by its colossal proportions.

This spacious Gallery and Rotundo, which properly may be denominated the "National Pantheon," is lighted in four grand divisions from above, and by its circular form, presents each subject decorating its walls in an interesting point of view, and with proper effect, as the curiosity is kept up every moment, from the whole room not being presented to the eye at one glance, as in the case of a straight gallery.

Entering the centre pier through an arched way, you pass into a spacious circular area, and ascend, with an easy grade, by a railway, to the grand terrace, 75 feet above the base of the Monument. This terrace is 700 feet in circumference, 180 feet wide, enclosed by a colonnaded balustrade, 15 feet high with its base and capping. The circuit of this grand terrace is studded with small temple-formed structures, constituting the cupolas of the lanterns, lighting the Pantheon gallery below ; by means of these little temples, from a gallery within, a bird's-eye view is had of the statues, &c., below.

Through the base of the great circle of the balustrade are four apertures at the four cardinal points, leading *outside* of the balustrade, upon the top of the main cornice, where a gallery 6 feet wide and 750 feet in circumference encircles the whole, enclosed by an ornamental guard, forming the crowning member on the top of the tholus of the main cornice of the grand colonnade. Within the thickness of this wall, staircases descend to a lower gallery over the plafond of the pronaos of the colonnade lighted from above. This gallery, which extends all around the colonnade, is 20 feet wide, divided into rooms for the records of the Monument, works of art, or studios for artists engaged in the service of the Monument. Two other ways communicate with this gallery from below.

In the centre of the grand terrace above described,

rises the lofty obelisk shaft of the Monument, 50 feet square at the base, and 500 feet high, diminishing as it rises to its apex, where it is 40 feet square; at the foot of this shaft, and on each face project four massive zocles 25 feet high, supporting so many colossal symbolic tripods of victory, 20 feet high, surmounted by facial columns with their symbols of authority. These zocle faces are embellished with inscriptions, which are continued around the entire base of the shaft, and occupy the surface of that part of the shaft between the tripods. On each face of the shaft above this is sculptured the four leading events in General Washington's eventful career, *in basso relievo*, and above this the shaft is perfectly plain to within 50 feet of its summit, where a simple star is placed, emblematic of the glory which the name of WASHINGTON has attained.

The interior of the shaft is to be ornamented by blocks of marble and stone contributed by the different States and associations. Many of these have been received, and are being placed in their proper positions. The sculpture of some of these contributions reflect the highest credit on the artists.

To ascend to the summit of the column, the same facilities as below are provided within the shaft, by an easy graded gallery, which may be traversed by a railway, terminating in a circular observatory 20 feet in diameter, around which at the top is a look-

out gallery, which opens a prospect all around the horizon.

With reference to the area embraced by the foundations and basement of the Monument, and the uses to which they may be applied, the under-space outwards, occupied by the lower terrace and colonnade, may be appropriated to the accommodation of the keepers of the Monument, or those having charge of it, and attending on visiters.

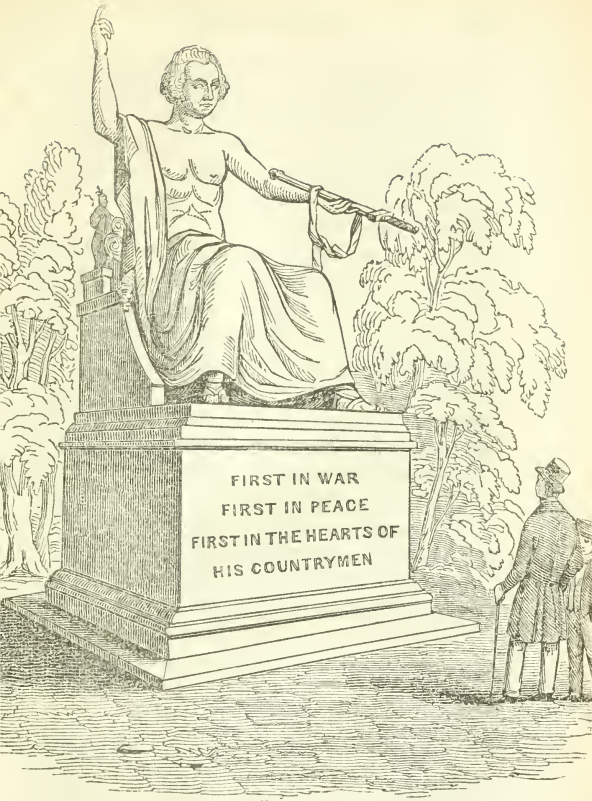
These apartments, which are arched, are well lighted and aired, as they are all above ground, the light being disposed in the sunk panels of the stylobate (base.) The principal entrance to all these apartments will be from the rear, or opposite side of the portico entrance. The *inner* space, or that under the grand gallery or rotundo, may be appropriated to catacombs for the reception of the remains of such distinguished men as the nation may honor with interment here. This subterranean gallery is so large and lofty that it would accommodate many catacombs.

In the centre of the Monument is placed the tomb of WASHINGTON, to receive his remains, should they be removed thither, the descent to which is by a broad flight of steps, lighted by the same light which illumines his statue.

This great work is rapidly rising, and has already been carried up nearly one hundred feet.

## STATUE OF WASHINGTON.

This beautiful work of art by Greenough, who devoted several years in Italy to its execution, stands in the east square of the Capitol, on a noble granite pedestal, and is surrounded by a handsome iron railing, which encloses two small yew trees and some ornamental shrubbery. Of this statue, Mr. Greenough says: "It is the birth of my thought. I have sacrificed to it the flower of my days, and the freshness of my strength; its every lineament has been moistened with the sweat of my toil, and the tears of my exile. I would not barter away its association with my name for the proudest fortune avarice ever dreamed of. In giving it up to the nation which has done me the honor to order it at my hands, I respectfully claim for it that protection which it is the boast of civilization to afford to art, and which a generous enemy has more than once been seen to extend even to the monuments of his own defeat." This statue is of colossal size, in a sitting posture, and were it erect it would stand about twelve feet high. A foreign writer has said, "nothing can be more human, and at the same time more god-like, than this statue of Washington. It is a sort of domestic Jupiter." It is greatly ad-




STATUE OF WASHINGTON

mired by those most familiar with the great works of art in Italy, and is growing in reputation with the public. The great Father of his Country is represented with the right hand pointed to Heaven, and the left hand holding a Roman sword with the handle turned from the person. Of it the Hon. Edward Everett says:

"We regard Mr. Greenough's Washington as one of the greatest works of sculpture of modern times. We do not know the work that can justly be preferred to it, whether we consider the purity of the taste, the loftiness of the conception, the truth of the character, or, what we must own we feel less able to judge of, accuracy of anatomical study and mechanical skill. Had it been the work of Canova, Chantrey, or Thorswalden, it would have been deemed, we doubt not, worthy of either of those artists. Nay, we are prepared to go farther, and, disclaiming all pretence to connoisseurship, we are persuaded, if, instead of being a statue of Washington, it had been a statue of Julius Cæsar or Alexander the Great—if, instead of coming from the studio of a young American of the present day, with all its freshness upon it, it had been dug up in the ruins of the baths of Titus, or the villa of Adrian, shattered and mutilated, arms, legs, nose, and even head gone, stained and corroded; when it had been scraped and pieced together, furnished with modern extremities, and

perhaps a head of doubtful authenticity, and thus restored had been set up in the Vatican or the Tribune, it would have been deemed as fine a piece of sculpture as any there.

"This grand work is of one single piece of marble, not of pure white, which it is impossible to procure in masses of sufficient size for such a statue without stains fatal to its beauty, but of a bluish tinge highly favorable to the effect of a work of art. The marbles of this kind are now preferred for works of this description."

This statue is intended not to commemorate any single action, but rather to express the sublime dignity, the calm integrity, fortitude and devotion, in a word the entire character of Washington. The seat which the statue occupies is adorned by a miniature figure of Columbus on the one side, and that of an Indian chief on the other, with other emblematic devices, such as the infant Hercules strangling the serpent, the rising sun, with the crest of the national armor of the United States.

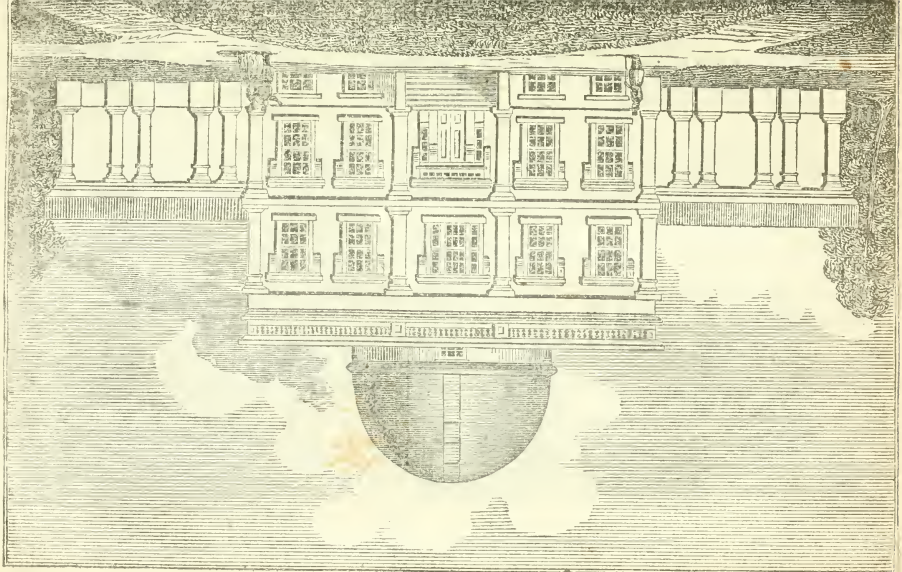
## JACKSON MONUMENT.

This great work by Mr. *Clark Mills* is far advanced, and will be placed in the centre of Lafayette Square in the course of the year. This Monument is to be a bronze equestrian statue—one-third larger than life, after an admirable model by Mr. Mills,

in which the horse is represented in a rearing attitude, self-balanced and sustained, while the General waives his hat in acknowledgment of the honors paid him, while reviewing his troops. Nothing could well exceed the beauty and spirit of the horse, or the energy and valor expressed in the countenance of the stern and never-conquered Hero of New Orleans. Mr. Mills is a native, and entirely self-taught artist, and deserves the greatest credit, not only for the genius which his model exhibits, but for the method he has devised in opposition to many unbelievers or doubters for casting this noble statue, under his own direction in this city. None who know the inventive powers of Mr. Mills, or what he has already accomplished, have the least doubt of his success. His bust of the late Mr. Calhoun, modeled and cut in marble by himself, and for which the city council of Charleston presented him with a gold medal, is one of the most perfect works of art. We feel assured that the speedy completion of this equestrian statue in bronze to the honor of General Jackson, will dispel every doubt of the abilities of the sculptor, and win for him a wide and enduring fame.

## NATIONAL OBSERVATORY.

One of the most interesting objects in the Metropolis is the National Observatory, situated about



two miles from the Capitol, on Camp Hill, and commanding one of the prettiest prospects the mind can imagine.

In 1842, an act of Congress was passed, making an appropriation of money and grounds for the erection of the building which was intended as a depot for charts and mathematical instruments for the navy. It was erected under the superintendence of Lieutenant J. M. Gillis, who was sent abroad to collect a number of astronomical and magnetic instruments. In 1844, Lieutenant M. F. Maury, of the Navy, an officer amply qualified to superintend its operations, was directed to take charge of the Observatory, and under his direction and untiring efforts it is taking a prominent stand among other similar institutions. It received its first impetus from the Hon. Abel P. Upshur, who afforded every facility for getting it into operation; was liberally patronised by the Hon. George Bancroft, who did all he could to enlarge its sphere of usefulness; and the late popular Secretary of the Navy, Hon. J. Y. Mason, has not been behind his predecessors in the continuance of his patronage. If Congress will only be moderately generous to this infant institution, there is nothing to hinder it from becoming a great national ornament, and the best school in our country for the attainment of astronomical information.

In 1845, Lieut. Maury published the observations of that year, which fill a large volume, containing also drawings of every part of the building, and the instruments at present mounted. To a scientific person this volume will afford great attraction, and to all it will give proof of the untiring zeal of the officers, who have performed the whole of the work, and still continue to do so, under the direction of Lieut. Maury.

The Observatory is built nearly in the shape of a cross, and fronts to the north. The right wing, or east room, contains two beautiful instruments, the mural circle and the meridian transit, two instruments whose results are very much the same, but entirely different in their construction. The former is used for determining the declinations or the latitude of the stars, and the latter to determine both right ascension and declination, that is, both latitude and longitude. To the uninitiated the apparatus connected with the instruments for the purpose of lighting them up, &c., would present a mass of confusion; whereas, the most perfect system reigns throughout, and a degree of ingenuity not met with in any other institution of the kind. These instruments in clear weather are generally at work by sundown, but at any other time of the day an officer of the building will take pleasure in showing them to strangers. The west room contains a large transit instrument, used for deter-

mining the right ascension of stars, and in connection with it is the magnetic telegraph, for the purpose of determining the difference of longitude between any two places. When the lines are carried through all parts of the United States, this will afford the readiest means of ascertaining the correct longitude of every point—a much desired event for acquiring geographical knowledge.

The south section of the Observatory consists of two separate rooms, the north one containing a beautiful instrument called the prime vertical, and the southern room a circle of refraction, an instrument invented by Lieutenant Maury, and apparently intricate in its numerous appointments, yet actually simple in principle, and mathematically correct in theory. The beautiful finish of the instruments will strike the beholder with astonishment, and his wonder will not cease when he is informed of the trifling cost of the whole compared with the results to the country. Each room is provided with a sidereal clock of very correct rate of going, which is used in connection with the instruments while observing; these clocks have errors only the hundredth part of a second or thereabouts, a space of time scarce within the comprehension of most individuals.

The great equatorial telescope is the instrument with which a stranger would be at once fascinated —a peep through it at once transports the beholder

to other realms above; he plainly sees the mountains and volcanoes in the Moon; and every moment expects to see some of the inhabitants of those unknown regions stepping out from behind some rock. The planets Jupiter, Saturn, Mars, Venus, &c., which appear to the naked eye only as brilliant stars, are resolved into magnificent moons through the equatorial, surrounded by their accompanying satellites. The wonders of the heavens are, in fact, all unfolded to the view, and we read the stars in the firmament as though it were a book.

The dome of the building is so fixed that it revolves with the slightest movement, and enables the observer, through a slit in the top, to turn the instrument on any object. An ingeniously constructed chair, for the purpose of elevating or lowering the observer, demands some little attention, being the work of an Alexandrian and an American.

All the instruments referred to have been mounted, under the direction of Lieutenant Maury, by native workmen, who have shown an admirable adaptation for these nice labors; and the day is probably not far distant, when we shall nobly compete with our European friends in the manufacture of the instruments—at present it cannot be done.

In the main body of the Observatory are the offices or rooms for calculating, the library for the use of the building, the room for nautical instru-

ments, and a room for charts and nautical books.—The saving that has taken place in the latter articles since the construction of the building would nearly pay for its original cost.

The southeast room in the main building contains all the chronometers, which are supplied to our public national vessels, and they are regulated by a mean-time clock of great regularity, which stands in the corner. The facility for regulating these time-pieces, and the exact character that is attached to each chronometer when it is sent to a ship, renders navigation more secure than it was in former times.

The grounds about the Observatory are not laid out yet as they should be, as the means at the disposal of the superintendent are small for that purpose. We hope to see them adorned as our other public walks about Washington, when they will become a charming resort to the stranger visiting the Metropolis. After years of labor, Congress has at length given the superintendent a house to live in, where he can give his continual superintendence to the operations going on in the main building. The house is to the east of the Observatory, built with taste and at little cost, and adds very much to the sterile waste once called Camp Hill, which has become one of the prettiest spots in Washington, and has increased the value of property very much in that part of the city.

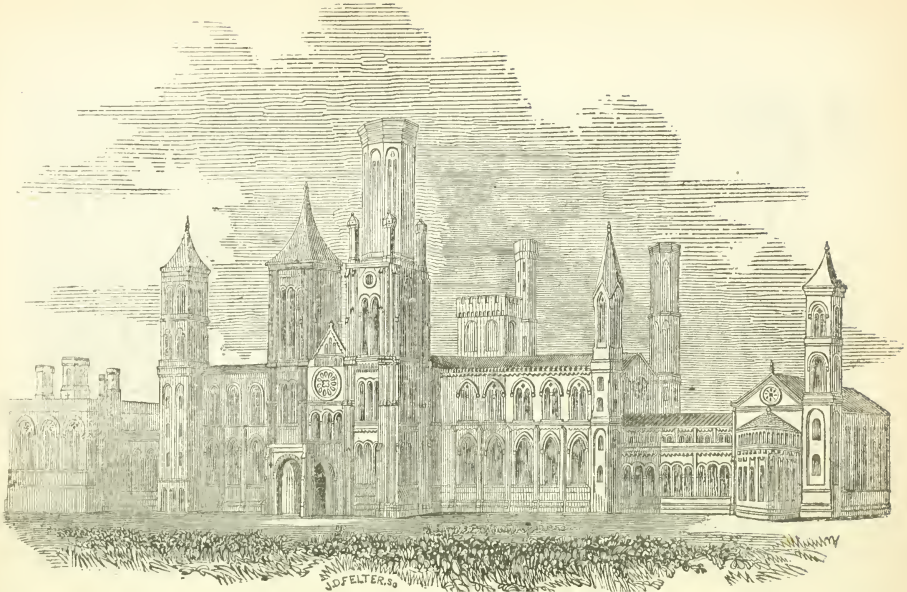
The details of labor connected with the Observatory are contained in the transactions of 1845, and are interesting, as showing the amount of work done by a small corps of officers.

It remains to mention the small equatorial instrument mounted outdoors, which can always be seen by visiters, and the two comet-seekers kept employed in clear weather to detect the approach of these wandering luminaries. A meteorological register is also minutely kept, and every branch of astronomical science is attended to, where means are afforded for its accomplishment.

Visiters to the Observatory may be sure of being received with courtesy by the superintendent and officers, who are at all times desirous to afford every facility for seeing the building and explaining the use of the various instruments.

## OFFICE OF THE COAST SURVEY.

Strangers cannot fail to derive gratification from a visit to this office, a little east of the Capitol, on the right side of New Jersey avenue, which is under the direction of Professor Alexander D. Bache. Great progress has been made in an accurate survey of a large extent of our coast, both on the Atlantic and Pacific, and in no branch of the Government has there been displayed more scientific ability. In this office are deposited the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weights and measures adopted by the United States, and a set of which is here prepared for the authorities of each State in the Union. The maps and charts, prepared with the greatest accuracy and skill by this office, are of inestimable value, and it would be difficult to exaggerate the merits of the gentlemen who are concerned in carrying out the designs for which it was established. The survey on the Atlantic coast now extends unbroken from Casco bay, in Maine, to Cedar Island, in Virginia, 1,200 miles, measuring along the sides of the triangles, and the land operations and hydrography are kept as closely up with the triangulations as is practicable.

## SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

This Institution owes its existence to the will of James Smithson, of England, a relative of the Duke of Northumberland, who seventeen years ago died at Genoa, leaving to the United States more than half a million of dollars, "to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an *Establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.*" It is stated that the mother of Mr. Smithson was a Mrs. Maurice, of an ancient family in Wiltshire by the name of Hungerford; that he was educated at Oxford, where he took an honorary degree in 1786,

that he was a gentleman of retired and studious habits, living in lodgings sometimes in London and occasionally visiting and staying for a time in the cities of the continent; that he interested himself not especially in questions of government, but devoted his attention much to science, particularly to chemistry. He thus became introduced to the society of Cavendish, Woolaston and others, well known to the Royal Society in London, of which he became a member. Twenty-four treatises from the pen of Smithson are mentioned as having been published in the transactions of the Royal Society and other scientific journals, containing contributions on the sciences of mineralogy, geology, and more especially of mineral chemistry. On the 1st July, 1836, Congress solemnly accepted the trust reposed in them by Mr. Smithson. Through the earnest and well directed efforts of the Hon. Richard Rush, (appointed by the United States to prosecute its claim to this bequest,) the fund was obtained from the English Court of Chancery and paid into the Treasury of the United States, September 1st, 1838. Mr. Van Buren, then President, sought the opinions of men eminent in letters and science as to the best mode of applying this bequest in order most effectually to secure the end proposed by the testator, and communicated their replies to his enquiries to Congress.

Immediately after the receipt of this Smith-

sonian fund, $500,000 of the amount was invested in Arkansas bonds, and the remainder in bonds of the states of Michigan, Illinois, and Ohio, and the failure of Arkansas to pay the interest on her debt was urged as a reason for postponing the establishment of the Institution. After protracted discussions in both houses of Congress, the present bill, under which the institution now exists, was adopted by the House of Representatives on the 29th, and in the Senate on the 30th April, 1846. It is enacted, "That the President and Vice President of the United States, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, the Postmaster General, the Attorney General, the Chief Justice, and the Commissioner of the Patent Office of the United States, and the Mayor of the city of Washington, during the time for which they hold their respective offices, and such other persons as they may elect honorary members, be, and they are hereby constituted an establishment by the name of the Smithsonian Institution, for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men; and by that name shall be known and have perpetual succession with the powers, limitations, and restrictions hereinafter contained, and no other."

This bill further provides for the establishment of a Board of Regents, to be composed of "the Vice President of the United States, the Chief

Justice of the United States, the Mayor of the city of Washington, during the time for which they shall hold their respective offices, three members of the Senate, and three members of the House of Representatives, together with six other persons not members of Congress, two of whom shall be members of the National Institute in the city of Washington, and residents in the said city, and the other four thereof shall be inhabitants of States, and no two of the same State." The three members of the Senate are appointed by the President of the Senate, the three members of the House by the Speaker thereof, who at the close of two years retire and give place to others similarly chosen, and the six other persons are appointed by joint resolution of both houses. The Board of Regents are empowered to elect a Chancellor, who is to preside over their proceedings, and the Institution; and a Secretary, who is to act both for the Institution and the Board, and an Executive Committee of three members.

The site selected for this Institution is on the fine open mall below the Capitol, where is already rising the magnificent Norman structure of which we present so accurate a view and exact a description from the pencil and pen of the distinguished architect, Mr. Renwick. This building is to be of plain and durable materials, and of sufficient size, and with suitable rooms or halls for the reception

and arrangement, upon a liberal scale, of objects of natural history, including a geological and mineralogical cabinet, also a laboratory, a library, a gallery of art and the necessary lecture rooms. The whole to be finished in the course of four years from March, 1848; and the expense to be defrayed entirely out of the interest of the funds. The Secretary is to take charge of the property of the institution—to superintend its literary and scientific operations; and to give an annual account of the same to the Regents. The Regents have resolved to divide the income of the funds into two equal portions, and to devote one to publications, original research, &c., and the other to the formation of a library and a collection of objects of nature and art. Measures are already adopted for securing and publishing and distributing learned and able papers on scientific subjects, and under the supervision of the very able Secretary, Professor Henry, high hopes are cherished that this institution will finally embrace the amplest means of increasing and diffusing the noblest departments of human knowledge. "Of all places (said the Hon. Mr. Marsh, when advocating the library clause in the bill) in our territory, this central heart of the nation is the fittest for such an establishment; it is situated in the middle zone of our system—easily and cheaply accessible from every quarter of the Union—blessed with a mild, a salu-

brious, and an equable climate—abundant in the necessaries and comforts of physical life—far removed from the din of commerce, and free from narrow and sectional influences.

"Let us here erect such a temple of the muses, served and guarded by no exclusive priesthood, but with its hundred gates thrown open, that every votary may enter unquestioned, and you will find it thronged with ardent worshippers, who, though poverty may compel them to subsist, like Heyne, on the pods of pulse and the parings of roots, shall yet forget the hunger of the body in the more craving wants of the soul."

The building of the Smithsonian Institute is in the Romanesque style of architecture: A style which flourished in Europe from the eighth to the twelfth century, and which in its earlier phases approaches the Roman, and its later the Pointed style. The building itself consists of a centre building 205 feet long, and 55 feet broad, two connecting ranges or cloisters 60 feet long, and two wings averaging 40 by 80 feet.

The exterior of the building is by no means uniform; but it has been the endeavor of the architect to express in some slight degree by the exterior the uses to which the parts of the interior are to be applied. The principal entrance in front is flanked by two towers, averaging 130 feet in height. The rear entrance is through a large square tower. The

towers contain the stair-cases, porter's lodges, Regent's and Secretary's private rooms, and all the offices of the building, together with portions of the library and museum.

The central building is flanked by four towers, varying in height and exterior form. These are also used for staircases and elevators, and for the purposes of heating and ventilation. The interior of the centre is divided into two stories, in the lower one of which is the library, capable of containing 80,000 volumes; the great lecture room, which will seat 1,200 persons; and the museum, which will be 200 feet in length and 50 feet in breadth, and which is intended to contain the magnificent present of the government, the collection of the United States Exploring Expedition made by Captain Wilkes. In the eastern wing is the chemical lecture room and laboratory, and in the eastern connecting range the laboratories and rooms connected with the great lecture room in the centre building.

The western wing and connecting range will be used for galleries of art, and will form a hall of 120 feet in length.

The length of the whole building when completed will be 450 feet, and its extreme breadth in the centre at the principal towers 140 feet, exclusive of the projection of the front porch.

There will be nine towers in the various parts of

the building, varying from 75 to 150 feet in height. The height of the centre building will be 60 feet, and of the wings 45 feet.

The building is constructed of rose-colored free stone, of fine grain and excellent quality, which is obtained from the Seneca quarries, distant about twenty-five miles from Washington, in a northerly direction, and lying on the bank of the Potomac River and the Chesapeake and Ohio canal.

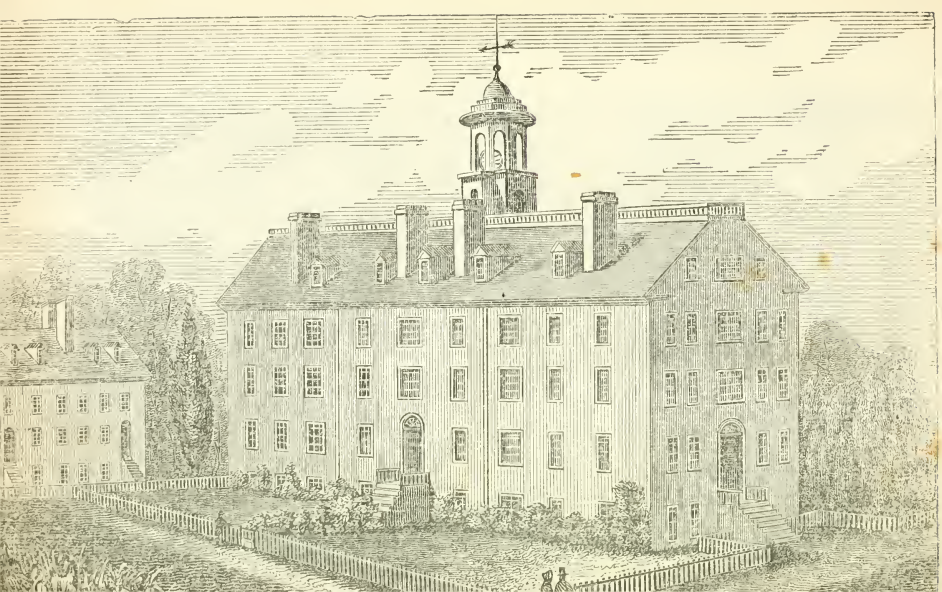
## PUBLIC GROUNDS.

On the 12th of April, 1851, President FILLMORE adopted, with some slight restrictions and modifications, the plan for laying off the public grounds, submitted by Mr. A. J. DOWNING, a gentleman known and distinguised by several excellent works on cottage architecture, a Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening and designs for rural architecture and the improvement of residences. The plan is not only beautiful, but magnificent, and will, when carried into full execution, render the public grounds of Washington more attractive than any in the United States. For the improvement and planting of these grounds Congress appropriated between twenty and thirty thousand dollars for the present year. The plan of Mr. DOWNING extends the oblong square upon which the President's House stands to the canal, provid-

ing for a large circular parade ground in the centre, to be encompassed with trees, and a carriage way, connected by a suspension bridge with the mall near the Monument—the borders of said square to be adorned richly with trees and shrubs, and winding gravel walks amid their fragance and shades. From gates opening into the great mall at the foot of the Capitol, a carriage way is to wind through its entire extent to the river, and the whole of this vast enclosure is laid off in diversified forms, and to be planted in the most tasteful manner with shrubs and trees, among which gravel walks are to run around in multiplied and ever-varying directions.

## COLUMBIAN COLLEGE.

This Institution, which was incorporated by Congress in 1821, is now in a flourishing condition; the number of its students has been gradually increasing for several years past; and its prospects are brightening on every side. It is beautifully situated on one of the most commanding eminences of the high hills that sweep around the northern portion of the metropolis, and is about half an hour's walk from the President's mansion, from the Capitol, from the Smithsonian Institute, from the National Observatory, and from all the public buildings in Washington.



The College building is a fine brick edifice, four stories high, including the basement and attic, with sufficient room to accommodate one hundred students. Besides this there are three other brick buildings, one occupied by the President and family, another by the steward, and the third is used as a hall for the philosophical apparatus belonging to the College, and also by the Preparatory Department.

The view from College Hill is surpassingly beautiful. The student can sit in his room and cast his eye over scenes which are well calculated to arouse the sluggish, to interest the most unobservant, and to excite feelings of energy and patriotism. Three cities, in all their beauty, are spread out before him; the Capitol, the President's house, and the other public buildings are within his view ; the Potomac stretches away before him as far as his vision can reach, and upon its banks are objects of absorbing interest ; to the right, away in the distance, may be seen a gently sloping hill reaching to the banks of the river, crowned with trees rising above the surrounding forests—it is Mount Vernon, a place hallowed in the heart of every American, the resting place of *Washington*.

The sessions of the college have been changed during the last year. The winter session of six months commences on the first Wednesday in October, at the close of which, one week only intervening, commences the summer session, which

continues three months. The annual commencement for conferring degrees takes place on the second Wednesday of July ; there is then a vacation until the first Wednesday of October. The number of students, including the Preparatory Department, during the last session, was ninety-four.

The students have frequent opportunities of listening to the finest efforts of eloquence in Congress and the Supreme Court, and will have admittance to the public lectures at the Smithsonian Institution, which will embrace a wide and extended range of literary and scientific subjects.

## NAVY YARD.

This is situated near the mouth of the Eastern Branch. Fine views of the Navy Yard may be had from an approach up the river, from the Virginia shore of the Potomac, and from various other points. The view herewith presented is taken from the bridge over the Eastern Branch. It embraces the ship houses, the building shed, the workshops of the Yard, &c., &c.

The works at this place are very extensive. Passing through an arched gateway, guarded by marines, the visiter enters a neatly kept yard, of some twenty or thirty acres. On his left is the house of the commandant of the yard, and on the right those for the lieutenants and other officers.

NAVY YARD

Farther down towards the Eastern Branch are ranged the various workshops, the great forges for anchors, the block and tackle factory, the carpenters' shops, and many other buildings for the convenience of the public works. At this place, several vessels were sunk when the news of the defeat of our army at Bladensburg reached the authorities. Several hundred men are usually employed at this yard. It is said that vessels built here keep better than those built at any of the other Navy Yards of the Government, which is supposed to be owing to the more careful inspection of the timber. Nine fine vessels of war, of the following names and rates, have been launched at this yard: ship of the line Columbus, 74; first-class frigates Potomac, Brandywine, and Columbia, 44 each; sloops of war St. Louis and St. Mary's, each 20; schooners Grampus and Shark, 10 each; and Experiment, 4. Without the precincts proper of the Navy Yard, are the barracks for the United States Marines.

Congress has made liberal appropriations for this Yard, and there are within it many mechanical shops, and two large ship houses. There is also an armory well arranged, and naval stores and cannon of every description are here deposited. The River at this Yard has sufficient depth for frigates, and we know not why it might not become a place for a large foreign commerce.

## ARLINGTON.

Arlington House, the seat of George Washington Park Custis, Esq., occupies a commanding position on the Virginia side of the Potomac, elevated more than two hundred feet above the river, and immediately fronting the Capitol, from which it is distant something more than three miles. The view from this point, embracing the whole city of Washington and Georgetown, and a great extent of the river and country far beyond, in Maryland, is one of the finest and most picturesque in the world.

The Mansion House consists of a central building of sixty feet front, and two wings of forty each, making the extent of the whole one hundred and forty feet. A very magnificent portico, twenty-five feet deep, supported by eight columns of the ancient Doric order, five feet in diameter at their bases, adorns the central building, which was designed from drawings of the Temple at Pæstum, near Naples. The edifice and portico are of brick, but stuccoed so as to resemble freestone. Mr. Custis has been greatly distinguished as an orator, and among his speeches will be found some of the finest specimens of eloquence. At Arlington House are carefully preserved many rare and valuable pictures and other

relics descended from the ancestors of Mr. Custis, and some of them once in the possession of Washington. Here are two ancient portraits by Vandyke; one by Sir Godfrey Kneller, representing the celebrated Col. Parke, painted in 1707. Among the fine old engravings is one of the death of Lord Chatham, presented by Copley; a death of Wolfe, by West; a miniature engraving of Napier of Merchiston, the inventor of logarithms, presented by the Earl of Buchan, and addressed to Marshal General Washington, this high dignity of Marshal of France having been conferred upon the General by Louis XVI, to enable him to command the Count de Rochambeau. Here also is the Mount Vernon plate, bearing the arms and crest of Washington; the bed and bedstead on which the first President slept during the whole of his presidency, and on which he expired the 14th of December, 1799; a set of china, having the names of the old confederation; also one bearing the representation of the Cincinnati, with many other relics which will be sought by the curious and eager eyes of succeeding generations. "During the sojourn of General Lafayette in the District he paid several visits of affection to the proprietor of Arlington House, the last, but one, survivor of the Washington family. The good General was peculiarly gratified with a view from the grand portico, pronouncing it the finest he had ever seen, and warmly recommended

to Mrs. Custis to cherish the native forest trees which extended for some distance in the rear of the mansion, observing emphatically, 'recollect, my dear, *how much easier it is to cut a tree down than make one grow.*'"

Mr. Custis has been much engaged in agricultural pursuits, and for a number of years gave special attention to the rearing of fine sheep, and an annual festival at his own expense, with the view of exciting an interest among the neighboring farmers in the introduction of improved breeds of cattle and in agricultural improvements generally.

Very near the river, rising at the root of a venerable umbrageous old oak, is the famous Arlington Spring, to which thousands resort in the summer months, and where preparations have been made by the hospitable proprietor for their welcome reception. Small buildings are here erected in which any articles of the company may be safely deposited; the best ice is always abundant; and all conveniences are provided on an ample sheltered platform, with commodious seats for a participation in such meals or refreshments as the party may have provided. Here are still, retired walks, inviting lawns, shaded by beautiful groves, and the finest view of the river and the city imaginable. The fine manners and instructive conversation of the venerable proprietor often add to the life and social enjoyment of those who seek from the dust

and crowds of the city a few hours' relaxation and retirement amid the charms of this cool and quiet spot.

# GEORGETOWN.

Viewed from the Virginia side of the Potomac, as in the engraving, Georgetown is seen boldly and beautifully situated on a range of hills that rise high above the river, and stretch in undulating beauty along the northern and western horizon.

Georgetown possesses the ancient college belonging to the Catholics, under the direction of the Jesuits; also a nunnery, and various other seminaries of learning. In former days, it was a place of great commercial enterprise; and now those merchants who are largely embarked in trade, are full of zeal and energy. The artist with strict fidelity has included a view of the Aqueduct of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. This stupendous work, which has attracted so much notice in Europe as well as in America, was constructed by Major Turnbull, of the United States Topographical Engineers. The piers, nine in number, and thirty-six feet above high water mark, are built of granite, and imbedded seventeen feet in the bottom of the river, with a foundation upon solid rock, so as to withstand the shock of the spring ice, which, rushing furiously from the falls and narrows above, crushes with almost resistless force against the

bridge of the Potomac, sweeping everything before it. These piers, built in the most masterly manner, will bear up against any force that may be brought against them. The aqueduct connects the great canal of the Ohio and Chesapeake with the city of Alexandria. Its length is fourteen hundred and forty-six feet.

## HEIGHTS OF GEORGETOWN.

The lofty eminences that overlook the town from the north and west are known as the Heights of Georgetown. Along these elevations gentlemen of wealth have built their dwellings, and cultivated beautiful and extensive gardens.

The view is taken from the turnpike road leading from Georgetown to Fredericktown in Maryland. Nothing can surpass this splendid panorama. Below reposes the city of Georgetown, with its spires—to the left is the Metropolis—like a waving band of silver, the Potomac stretches as far as the eye can reach to the south—while the cupola of Mount Vernon can be distinguished, in a clear day, by a good eye, breaking up against the southern horizon.

No stranger at the seat of Government should omit visiting the spot from which this view is taken.

VIEW OF CUMBERLAND ROAD NEAR CUMBERLAND

## OAK-HILL CEMETERY.

Another highly valuable and much needed improvement, well worthy of the patronage of the inhabitants, and of being visited by travellers, is now in the course of completion on the Heights of Georgetown, through the munificence of one of its native citizens, WILLIAM W. CORCORAN, Esq.

On the ridge of hills, dividing Rock creek from the Potomac river, and at the northern extremity of Washington street, lies a piece of forest land, long known as Parrott's woods, which from its picturesque scenery, and retired locality, had long been a favorite walk of the inhabitants of Georgetown, but which had within the last few years been the resort of turbulent and disorderly persons. This place was purchased by Mr. CORCORAN, who, in the beginning of 1849, obtained from Congress a charter for it, under the name of the Oak-hill Cemetery, placing it in the care of four trustees, to have it handsomely improved and prepared for its intended purpose.

These trustees, Messrs. MARBURY, MATHEWS, THOMAS, and LINTHICUM, began their operations by the selection of a civil engineer of the highest qualifications for scientific attainments, and cultivated taste, GEORGE F DE LA ROCHE, Esq., formerly

of Baltimore, who has planned and carried out the design entrusted to him in a manner extremely creditable to his skill and genius. In the present advanced state of the work, it is everywhere admitted, that a more judicious appointment could hardly have been made. A correspondent of the Baltimore Sun gives the following graphic description of it, which we take the liberty of copying:

"Captain De La Roche, took it in hand in May, 1849, a sterile forest, cut up with dangerous and unsightly ravines, precipitously descending into Rock creek on its northern boundary, (that stream then only about thirty feet wide,) and its grounds covered over with jutting rocks and loose stones.

"Its sterile appearance is fast disappearing, its ravines are no longer to be seen, but over wide and high sewers, are now covered with well-paved carriage roads; the northern precipitous descent into the creek (now flanked by a strong wall 13 feet high) has changed to an excellent carriage road 10 feet higher than the water, affording free access from the northern portions of the ground to the entrance, formerly utterly impracticable; the bed of the stream is now 150 feet wide, and the surface, in lieu of rugged rocks, various and precipitous, presents a beautifully undulating, and ever-varying prospect of well-gravelled, serpentine walks, green

slopes, and well-graded lots,* with an underground drainage, entirely preventing washings, which when his design is fully carried out, will render it one of the most desirable, if not one of the handsomest cemeteries in the United States; and this immense amount of labor has been faithfully executed at a far less cost than by any one expected, in view of its magnitude."

A handsome and capacious mausoleum, or public vault, has also been constructed by the engineer, in a central and very appropriate place. The front is of dressed granite, of the Henry the Eighth style of Gothic. The receptacle is calculated to hold from 40 to 50 coffins, laying entirely clear of each other, and is by well contrived ventilation kept clear from noxious exhalations of every kind.

Besides the above improvements made under the charter by the trustees, the generous donor of the land, (and of a large sum towards these improvements,) continues to advance the necessary funds; and that nothing may be wanting for the ornament and usefulness of the cemetery, has added a handsome and massive front iron railing, a gatekeeper's dwelling, of the Norman style of architecture, and an elegant Gothic chapel, adorned with beautiful stained-glass windows, for the perform-

* He ought to have added, without destroying the beautiful forest trees.

ance of the funeral service—the two latter buildings having been planned by Mr Renwick, architect.

## CONVENT OF VISITATION.

The Convent of Visitation, Georgetown, founded in 1798, is at present the most flourishing establishment of its kind in the United States. It is situated at the northwest extremity of the town, upon the declivity of one of the beautiful heights of Georgetown. The handsome range of buildings appropriated for the ladies' academy is of brick, between two and three hundred feet in length, by forty in breadth. In their interior, usefulness and convenience are combined with neatness and elegance; and the apartments are admirably adapted to the uses made of them. These buildings occupy part of the side of an oblong square, which contains an area of four or five acres, a portion of which is appropriated as play ground for the scholars, and the remainder as an excellent botanical garden. There are other edifices of great extent on the same square, comprising the Bishop's residence, an elegant church, the convent and charity schools. The whole is under the direction of the sisters of visitation.

*Miss English's Female Seminary.*—The Female Seminary under the direction of Miss English is one of the very best in the Union, and is designed

to afford the advantages of the most liberal course in the more solid as well as the more ornamental branches of education. This institution has been in existence since 1831 in its present form; the building is very ample and convenient; the number of teachers of high reputation, large, and not only the more ordinary, elegant accomplishments of music and drawing are here taught, but also the French, Italian, and Spanish languages, under able masters. The Principal of this Seminary has availed herself of every advantage, and visited the best institutions in order to render her plan and modes of instruction and discipline the best possible, and her annual examinations bear testimony to the entire success of her indefatigable efforts. Pupils have been sent forth from this Seminary into nearly every part of this Union, enriched with the knowledge, and adorned with the graces which it is so admirably adapted to impart.

There are several valuable schools for boys, among which may be particularly mentioned that of Mr. Abbot, an English and Classical Academy of high order.

Of the present state o Georgetown our intelligent fellow-citizen, Mr. Sessford, whose statistical information of the district is generally accurate, reports that considerable improvements have been made in Georgetown in improving the streets, the erection of new buildings, &c. A large iron-roll-

ing factory is nearly completed, adjoining the aqueduct. A cotton factory is now in successful operation. It is also in contemplation to put up two more flour mills, which are much wanted, as the trade on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal is great, and rapidly increasing, and its completion to Cumberland will cause a brisk trade on it, and no doubt in a few years it will equal any other canal in the country. The demand for the superior coal alone will give full employ for boats. Flour, grain, hay, wood, lime, &c., will be furnished in abundance for home consumption and exportation. The lands contiguous will increase in value, new villages, &c., spring up, and the facilities of transportation to the West be greatly promoted.

About three miles above Georgetown, on the Potomac, is the romantic view represented on the opposite page. It can be approached by an excellent road along the tow path of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and will amply repay a visit from any admirer of wild and picturesque scenery.

POPULATION OF GEORGETOWN,
*According to the Census of* 1850.

| | |
|---|---|
| Whites | 6,081 |
| Free Colored | 1,560 |
| Slaves | 725 |
| Total | 8,366 |

# ALEXANDRIA.

This city, though no longer within the District of Columbia, is well deserving notice, enjoying a very high character for the manners and virtues of its inhabitants, and also for many commercial advantages. It carries on considerable trade with the West Indies, and also with Europe, and with the eastern and southern States. The town is laid off at right angles, and is the residence of a number of old and wealthy families, who still exhibit the manners of Virginians of the time of "Fitzhugh, of Chatham, and of Washington."

The spectator who, from the western front of the Capitol, overlooks the beautiful and diversified plain which stretches beneath and around it, will discern, at the distance of about six miles to the south, this busy port. Facilities for reaching it are afforded by the steamboats, which ply at almost every hour of the day, and also by a bridge across the Potomac, and an excellent turnpike. The strikingly beautiful features of the intervening country—the graceful outline of the Virginia hills, confronted by those of Maryland—the broad and majestic expanse of the Potomac—all conspire to render an excursion to Alexandria one of the most

agreeable incidents which can await the sojourner in Washington.

Few, comparatively, of the interior towns of the United States can look back, like Alexandria, on the vicissitudes of nearly a century. Its foundation dates from 1748; and that it was early a place of some note, is shown by the fact, that five colonial governors met here by appointment, in 1775, to take measures with General Braddock respecting his expedition to the West. That expedition proceeded from Alexandria; and tradition still points to the site on which now stands the older Episcopal Church, (but then "in the woods;") as the spot where he pitched his tents, while the road over the western hills, by which his army withdrew, long bore the name of this unfortunate commander.

But the reminiscences which the Alexandrians most cherish are those which associate their town with the domestic attachments and habits of Washington. The reader of his letters and addresses will remember that he constantly speaks of them as his old and valued fellow-citizens, his kind and cherished neighbors and associates. Writing from Yorktown, he assures them that "amidst all the vicissitudes of time and fortune, he should ever regard with particular affection the citizens and inhabitants of Alexandria." On another occasion he mentions, with seeming exultation, that the people of Alexandria, who, on hearing of the rati-

fication of the Constitution by the requisite number of the States, had determined to vote a day of festivity, "constituted the *first* public assembly which had the pleasure of pouring out a libation to the ten States that had actually adopted the General Government." This friendly interest was manifested on every occasion, and a legacy of 1,000*l.* to a free school in the town testifies that it ceased only with his life. Nor were the Alexandrians backward in acknowledging, nor have they since been unmindful of, the honor which so intimate and cordial an intercourse conferred upon their city. Of the sympathies which reassured him in the hour of difficulty, of the acclamations which greeted him in that of his success, *theirs* were not the least fervent or the least welcome. It was this "voice from home" which, amid the applauses of the world, seemed ever to come with most acceptance to the heart of Washington. The stranger in Alexandria is still pointed to the church of which he was a vestryman, to the pew in which he customarily sate; and many striking memorials of his varied life are carefully preserved.

Among the public works which attest the spirit or animate the hopes of the Alexandrians, the first place is undoubtedly due to the canal, recently completed. The intelligent observer who views the acqueduct at Georgetown, which forms a part of it, will be astonished that so stupendous an undertak-

ing should have entered into the contemplation of a community like that of Alexandria. Nor is it possible that it could have been effected until after long years of embarrassment and distress, had not the timely aid of the Federal Government been extended to the work. This canal will open to Alexandria the resources of the upper Potomac, and confer on the town unsurpassed facilities for manufacturing. The abundance and cheapness of provisions, and the salubrity of the air, are favorable to this object; and many flourishing manufactories of iron, leather, peltries, &c., already exist.

In the neighborhood of this city is the Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church of Virginia, with several able and learned professors.

A new Court House, of large dimensions and handsome design, has recently been added to the conveniences of the town.

The Museum, kept in rooms over the market house, is well worth attention, comprising as it does, more personal relics of General Washington than can be found elsewhere, and also a large and curious collection of specimens in Natural History.

The churches and houses of worship belonging to the town are numerous, commodious, and well attended. Public schools are many, and their exemplary character has acquired for Alexandria wide repute as a theatre of education. It will not

be invidious to particularize the one kept by Benjamin Hallowell, since its numerous scholars have carried its reputation into every part of the Union.

Within a few years past, an association styled the Lyceum, and accommodated in a new and tasteful edifice, built of free-stone, after the Doric order, has served to evince that the citizens of Alexandria are not behind the most enlightened communities of the age in a love of letters, or a zeal for improvement. The course of lectures delivered during the winter, brings together with great regularity a crowded audience, and to the ordinary attractions of the institution have occasionally been added the names of such lecturers as Adams, Barnard, Cushing, Goodrich, Gurley, &c.

A large cotton factory has lately been erected, also a handsome edifice called Odd Fellows' Hall, and other improvements have been made, creditable to the enterprise of Alexandria. Large quantities of flour are shipped from Alexandria, and recently the coal trade is becoming of some importance while increased attention is given to manufactures. Rising by a gentle acclivity from the water's edge, the country subsides into a wide and level plain, until it reaches the base of a range of hills whose summits, at different points, (such as Shuter's Hill, Mount Ida, Arlington, &c.,) present a succession of views, which for extent, variety, and beauty, it might be difficult to rival.

The population of Alexandria by the census of 1850, was: whites, 6,390; free colored, 1,301; slaves, 1,061; total, 8,752.

## MOUNT VERNON.

Ever to be cherished spot—dear to the heart of every American!

The picture herewith presented of this classic and patriotic shrine, is eminently correct. This seat of the illustrious man who will ever be first in the hearts of his countrymen, is distant from Washington, on the Virginia side of the Potomac, fifteen miles. The most usual mode of visiting it, is by taking a steamboat to Alexandria, and a passage thence (eight miles) in a coach or omnibus.

The central part of the Mount Vernon house was built by Lawrence Washington, brother to the General; the wings were added by the General, and the whole named after Admiral Vernon, under whom Lawrence Washington had served. The house is of wood, two stories high, ninety-six feet in length, and with a portico extending the whole distance. It contains on the ground floor six rooms, one of them at the northeast, large and lofty, with a fine marble mantel piece sent to General Washington from Italy.

In front of the house and gradually sloping down to the river is a handsome lawn embracing

VAULT AT MOUNT VERNON

MOUNT VERNON

five or six acres planted with poplars and shrubbery. This place, on the death of the late Judge Washington, passed into the possession of his nephew, John Augustine Washington. The gardens and green house planted and preserved by General Washington have been carefully guarded, and are objects of great interest to visitors. The library room remains as when occupied by General Washington. A summer house stands about two hundred yards from the house, and very near the river, and commands a goodly prospect of the Potomac and opposite Maryland shore. On the hill side towards the river, at about one hundred and fifty yards west from the summer house, and perhaps thirty rods from the house, is the vault where repose the remains of Washington. Every thing about Mount Vernon is in keeping with the great man whose home it was. The trees are large and shady. The vistas through the woods, commanding glimpses of the glittering river and the passing sails, the green slopes basking in the sun and gradually losing themselves beneath the shadowy underbrush, present a beautiful and picturesque scene. The house itself is two stories high, and surmounted by a small cupola, with a weathercock, the gilding of which, though ancient and storm-beaten, is as brilliant as if it had been done but yesterday. The piazza reaches from the ground to the eaves of the roof, and is guarded on

the top by a light and tasteful balustrade. The pillars are large and graceful, and present a simple and grand idea to the mind. Beneath this porch the Father of his country was accustomed to walk, and the ancient stones, to hearts of enthusiastic patriotism, are full of deep and meditative interest. The interior is wainscotted, after the fashion of those days, with highly wrought cornices and shafts. The rooms are generally small, except the dining room, which is a spacious and hospitable hall. The whole house presents a curious spectacle. Every thing reminds one of former days, and in treading the halls of Mount Vernon, the mind reverts incessantly to that majestic form, whose shadow cast upon those very walls, seems to the mind's eye, ready to start before us into life.

The cedars on the sodded vault are withered. Here slept from the day of his burial until within a few years back the body of the illustrious chief. A new vault was built a short distance off, and thither he was removed. In a sarcophagus now sleep the remains of Washington. The lid is wrought with the arms of his country, and the simple but elegant epitaph is his name. By his side, in a corresponding tomb, are the ashes of "Martha, consort of Washington." This tomb is surrounded by several venerable old oaks, and thick shrubbery spreads its foliage down the hill

to the water's edge. The evergreen boughs of the cedar are interspersed among the oaks, and the position of the sepulchre is very picturesque and appropriate. When Lafayette visited the tomb he descended alone into the vault, and after a few minutes appeared bathed in tears. When leaving the vault, Mr. Custis presented General Lafayette with a gold ring containing some of the hair of Washington. George W. Lafayette stated to Mr. Levasseur that every thing in the house was as when he saw it twenty-eight years before. He found in the place where Washington himself had left it, the principal key of the Bastile, which had been sent to him by Lafayette.

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# BLADENSBURG.

History has the name of Bladensburg recorded in her annals, and to the visiter at the seat of Government, it must always be an object of interest. It is situated on the turnpike road leading from Washington to Baltimore, and before the Revolution was a town of some commercial importance, transacting considerable business in tobacco, flour, and other agricultural produce; but it is now only a small village.

The view presents the heights around the village,

and the bridge over the Eastern Branch, which, though it flows here a shallow stream, afterwards assumes the bold features of a river. The road in the foreground is that along which the British army marched to the battle, and afterwards to Washington. On this bridge the English fell in column, swept off by repeated discharges of the American artillery. In vain, for some moments, were the commands of officers—in vain the force of thorough discipline and approved courage. The forces could not advance; they wavered under the terrible discharge: and had the scenes of that unfortunate day been equalled by the check given the enemy on the bridge of Bladensburg, the metropolis of the nation would not have fallen under the fires of an invading army.

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# CONCLUSION.

We might mention several places and country seats of great beauty and interest in the vicinity of Washington. The Mansion House of the late General J. P. Van Ness, occupying the spot where stood the farm house of David Burns, one of the principal proprietors of the ground of the city, is situated on the low land near the Potomac, nearly south of the President's House. It is a commodious edifice, surrounded by fine trees, and an

ample and well cultivated garden. The building, adorned by a handsome stone portico, and the various improvements, are in excellent taste. Near Bladensburg, about six miles north-east from Washington, on a fine lawn, is the seat of the late George Calvert, a lineal descendant of Lord Baltimore. The venerable country seat of the late Mr. Carrol, of Duddington, near the Navy Yard, is, even in its decay, an object of interest. We cannot notice as particularly as we could desire Kalorama, the former residence of Joel Barlow, beautifully situated near the rising ground of Rock Creek; Meridian Hill, the former abode of Commodore Porter, but now owned by F. F. Cox, Esq.; or the very eligible country seats of Messrs. Stone, Pairo, Riggs, Blair, Gales, Birch, and Rives, all inviting to the eye of the stranger, and adorned by the taste and rendered still more attractive by the hospitality of their proprietors.

Every year is adding to the number and resources of our citizens, and to their private and public improvements. Measures are already in progress for lighting the City with gas, and for introducing an abundant supply of the purest water. These great and most desirable objects will, we have no doubt, shortly be attained, and other important improvements be made worthy of the metropolis of the Union. The City of Washington is an object of

interest to the inhabitants of distant lands. Many a pilgrim seeks it from remote regions, attracted thither by the illustrious name it bears, and animated by the hope that here, in the centre of the great republic of liberty, he may find her choicest blessings. Here indeed are they found, and not solitary and alone, but in connection with a mild and salubrious climate, a soil capable of high cultivation and the best productions, with the choicest luxuries of the land and the sea, excellent advantages for education, and frequent access to the noblest display of argument and eloquence in the Supreme Court and in Congress, and a society, if equalled, not surpassed in intelligence and courtesy by any in the world. Here too is religion venerated, and many temples of the Most High open weekly their gates to sincere and devout worshipers. Even in the Capitol, is divine service performed, every Sabbath during the session of Congress. The voice of religious instruction and the anthems of holy praise, elevate the sentiments of the great congregation to Him before whom all nations are less than nothing, and vanity.

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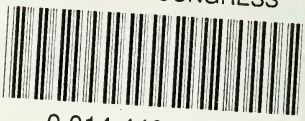
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